JANUARY 2010
ISSUE 134
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* Recommended special offer price until 28.02.2010.

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When a South Cheshire couple decided on major renovations they were recommended to visit the design team at Diane Berry Kitchens in Prestwich. Although there were many other more local companies they weren't disappointed when they arrived at the studio, they felt an immediate rapport with Natalie and gave her instruction to come up with a scheme. "We found them great people to work with, they adhered closely to our budget, demonstrated a high level of flexibility and had a positive attitude when changes were requested" The final design gave us everything we wanted; a complete living area to cook, relax and entertain in. Folding doors to the garden for natural light and great views, an open plan utility concealing all the equipment all of which Natalie designed perfectly.

We would recommend Diane Berry's team as our expectations have been exceeded and we have a modern kitchen with personality. Not only that but we now cook a lot more and thoroughly enjoy being able to entertain family and friends at the same time.

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CONTENTS

January 2010

COVER STORIES

60 2010 Style Report
Brand new trends as predicted by industry experts

70 Splash Out in Style
Get the lowdown on the latest bathrooms, showers and accessories

80 A Second Shower Room
Check out the Langley's stylish ensuite and discover how to successfully add a second bathroom to your home

82 Perfect Perspex
Add designer style with contemporary perspex products

86 The Range Cooker
All you need to know when choosing a range cooker

89 Ten of The Best
Accessorise with statement vases

130 Trend
Winter checks

COMPETITIONS & OFFERS

97 10% off at LAGO
New concept store LAGO is offering every reader a 10% discount when visiting the Redbrick Mill store

SHOPPING

16 This Month We Love
Monochrome

18 Retail Therapy
Our monthly round up of all the latest products and designs for the contemporary home

24 Design News
Featuring GUBI's new lighting collection, Pedlar's latest store opening in Manchester and designer buys from the high street

96 Coffee Table
Our pick of the best books on offer

102 Subscriptions Offer
Start the year by ensuring you never miss another copy of *Concept For Living*

103 We Love Shopping in... Liverpool
Visit this city's lively shopping scene

126 Stockists and Designer Listings
For all those must-have contacts and phone numbers

129 Next Issue
Make sure you buy the February issue, on sale 20 January

24

30

LIVING

30 Derbyshire Home
Matthew Fox and Liza Stratford took on a Grade II listed barn and turned it into their dream home

38 Merseyside Home
Renovating a run-down Victorian villa proved a labour of love for Louise Bell and partner Mike

46 Cheshire Home
Linda and Sean Fizpatrick replaced a tired bungalow with a modern four-storey family home

54 Cheshire Garden
Sandra and David Roberts show *CFL* around their unique Japanese-inspired garden

91 Northern Greats
CFL went along to The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair and found it brimming with new talent

98 Discovery Space
We chat with design guru Tricia Guild, take a look at the latest design bible and check out an iconic piece of furniture – Harry Bertoia's 'Diamond' chair

100 Designer Profile
Rebecca Appleby is the winner of *CFL*'s 'Best New Maker' Award – we talk to her about her work and influences

104 The Artist
Concept For Living went to meet Macclesfield-based artist Bernard O'Dwyer

VIEW

107 Property News
From low carbon homes in Leeds and affordable canal-side homes in Lancashire to a renovated gem in Northumberland

110 Property Spotlight
An in-depth look at the latest eco-friendly development by award winning Charter Homes

116 Area Focus: Nottingham
We uncover the best new properties on offer including contemporary countryside homes and apartments in a Grade II listed hall

118 Architect's View
This month Kevin Drayton reflects on the role of the conservation officer

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Sofa featured, Clanfield in dove velvet.
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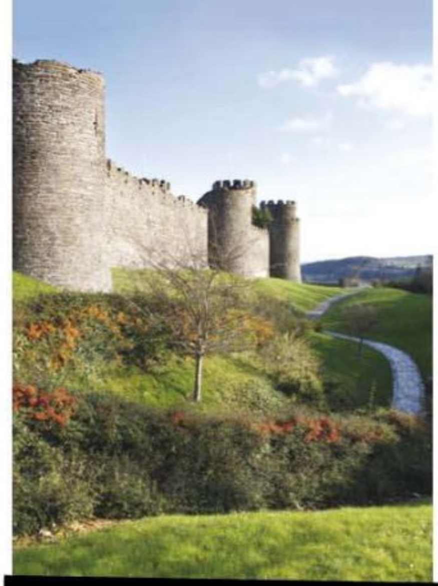

3 REASONS
TO TAKE A TRIP TO CONWY

1 SHOP at The Potters' Gallery. Opened in 2003 this co-operative exhibits the work of around twenty regional makers and is the only specialist ceramics gallery in North Wales. Run by the North Wales Potters' Association, there is a wide range of work on offer, including domestic-ware, sculpture, rare collectors' items and limited production pieces. The Gallery is also an information centre for all things ceramics and runs regular exhibitions showcasing members' work. ***Visit: www.thepottersgallery.co.uk or tel. 01492 593590.***

2 VISIT Plas Mawr. In the heart of Conwy you will find Britain's finest surviving Elizabethan town house. The 'Great Hall' was built in 1576-1585 and is especially noted for the quality and quantity of its ornamental plasterwork. The decorated plasterwork ceilings, friezes and skilful carpentry are alone worthy of a trip, however the authentic period atmosphere is further enhanced by furnishings (many original to the house) which ensure Elizabethan life both upstairs and downstairs is vividly brought to life. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 9am-5pm (April-Sept), 9am-4.30pm (Oct). Closed Nov-March. Admission £4.95 (adult).
Visit: www.conwy.com/plasmawr or tel. 01492 580167.

3 RELAX at The Groes Inn. This historic Inn has been welcoming visitors for over four centuries and even if you do not wish to stay awhile in one of their fourteen luxurious bedrooms you will definitely want to grab a delicious snack or dine out in their award winning restaurant. Voted The Good Pub Guide's 'British Inn of the Year' and 'Wales Dining Pub of the Year' 2009, expect to sample locally sourced ingredients in a friendly atmosphere that brings together the best of the old and the new.
Visit: www.groesinn.com or tel. 01492 650545.

WELCOME TO OUR JANUARY ISSUE

So yet another year has come and gone and now is the time to look forward to 2010. With this in mind *CFL* has asked some of the leading lights in the northern design and retail world to predict the top interior trends set to make an impact in our homes this year. And if one of your resolutions was to update that tired old bathroom, then you need look no further than page 60 for all the latest looks and inspirational ideas. Alternatively, for a quick and easy revamp why not add some smart winter checks (page 130) or pick up on perspex (page 82) in the form of furniture or accessories and start 2010 in style!

Here at *Concept For Living*, a new year also heralds the arrival of two interns, both of whom are currently studying journalism at Chester University. Steven and Jenny are eager to learn all about the workings of a top interiors magazine and will be helping us out both in the office and on location, so keep an eye out for their first ever features in the months to come.

And talking of behind the scenes – if you have ever wondered about the faces behind the magazine well here they are! Jennie, Katie, Eleri and Carly (above) all work their socks off to bring you *Concept For Living* each month and this year will be no exception. In fact, no sooner had they finished opening their presents and singing Auld Land Syne, than they were back at their desks putting together the latest issue!

Wishing you a happy new year from all the team at *CFL*.

Paula

Paula Woods, Acting Editor

STOP PRESS...

...SOUTHPORT ARTIST RUTH BALL IS CURRENTLY SHOWCASING HER HIGHLY ACCLAIMED AND INNOVATIVE ENAMEL WORK AT THE WALKER ART GALLERY. THE EXHIBITION 'GLASS, METAL & FIRE' RUNS UNTIL AUTUMN 2010 AND IS OPEN DAILY 10AM-5PM. ADMISSION IS FREE.

TEL. 0151 478 4199 OR VISIT: WWW.LIVERPOOLMUSEUMS.ORG.UK/WALKER.

THIS MONTH WE LOVE...

1

2

3

4

MONOCHROME

Get back to basics this January with one of the most versatile, yet simplest of colour combinations– sophisticated black and white.

1 Linea 'Baroque' cushion, £25, House of Fraser. 2 Coffee Pot And Creamer by Tibor Reich for Denby, £300, The Old Cinema. 3 'Brocade' Pendant Lampshade, £36, Hunkydory Home. 4 'Groovy' mini chaise longue-style chair, £385, Sweetpea & Willow. 5 Dorma 'Madison' pillowcase, from £7.99, and duvet cover, £29.99, Dunelm Mill. 6 'Broadstripe' wallcovering £168 per 10m roll, House Couturier.

For stockist details see page 126

5

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RETAIL THERAPY

It's all about what's new for 2010 this month with the latest products set to take the shops by storm. From the freshest furniture ideas to an array of fancy fabrics, leap into the New Year with our refreshing ideas for the home.

RIGHT

New from leading designer Roche Bobois is their 2010 collection of furniture. Colour, comfort and versatility are the main themes in sofa design, with bold patterns and stripes in rainbow brights. Shapes are softer and materials such as wool, silk, wood and stone are set to make great impact. As pictured, prices start from £694 for a square ottoman. **Tel. 0161 236 1517 or visit: www.roche-bobois.com**

BELOW RIGHT

'Miniature' from Alessi concentrates on the miniaturisation of the most eminent icons from Alessi's collections. From a stylish kettle to contemporary plates, there is something here to suit everyone. Prices on application. **Visit: www.alessi.com**

LEFT
'Cezanne', 'Van Gogh', 'Chagall' and 'Matisse' are all part of the latest complementary fabric and blind designs from Echelon. The collection is available in a diverse range of shades including avocado, jonquil, mandarin, grape, kingfisher, mahogany and ebony, together with a selection of natural and neutral palettes. Prices start at £39.50 per m. **Tel. 0845 1800 880 or visit: www.echelon.uk.com**

LEFT
Arredo launch 'Mr. Impossible' a statement plastic chair now available to purchase online. Boasting true designer style the contemporary chair is available in array of bright shades including red, crystal, purple, grey, green and ochre. Prices start from £200. **Tel. 0845 459 2164 or visit: www.arredo.co.uk**

BELOW RIGHT
New to Daval is an enticing palette of neutrals combined with a beautiful 'Quartz Cubanitz' finish and textured with an iridescent green grey, which absorbs the light and mood of the room. It can transform from bright and reflective by day, to atmospheric and sparkly at night. Prices start at £10,000. **Tel. 01484 848 500 or visit: www.daval-furniture.co.uk**

BELOW
'All that Glitters' wallcoverings from Nono combine glitzy foil effects and eye-popping iconic designs to give an elegantly funky look to feature walls. With a theme of modern glamour, the collection is an eclectic melting pot of design and techniques, combining rich colour, shine and pattern for maximum impact. Prices start from £35 per roll. **Tel 01282 471 622 or visit: www.nono.co.uk**

RIGHT
The funky retro 'Boogie Nights' rug from Plantation Rug is available from independent flooring retailers nationwide. Priced from £60 this vibrant floor covering is available in two sizes and three colourways. **Visit: www.plantationrug.co.uk**

FAR RIGHT
'New Cottage' and 'Green Garland' are part of a new range of chinaware from Villeroy & Boch. As pictured, the modern nature-inspired 'Green Garland' collection offers elegant shapes and fresh patterns. Designed by British ceramic Robin Levien the spring palette is timeless and works both as a full dinner service or as individual pieces. Prices start from £10.95. **Tel. 020 8875 6060 or visit: www.villeroy-boch.com**

ABOVE
The edgy and stylish 'Smarin' living stones from Clifton Interiors are high quality, practical floor cushions. Perfect for bringing nature into your home, these oversized pebbles are available in a variety of sizes and shapes, and can be used both indoors and out. Prices start from £75. **Tel. 020 7586 5533 or visit: www.cliftoninteriors.com**

ABOVE
Zoffany present 'Josephine' an elegant design with optional finishes. This luxurious upholstered furniture would work well in both modern and traditional settings. The 'Josephine' sofa is priced at £2,950 and fabrics starts from £58 per m.
Tel. 0845 543 4600 or visit: www.zoffany.com

LEFT
The Conran Shop's new collection of lighting features iconic statement pieces such as the 'Brave New World' floor light priced at £2,400. Each piece of wood has been notched and pegged together to create the form of the mechanical structure. Reminiscent of far Eastern bamboo scaffolding this light really does have the 'wow' factor.
Tel. 0844 848 4000 or visit: www.conranshop.co.uk

BELOW
John Lewis launches the latest designs from Clarissa Hulse. This exclusive range of cushions features five styles and each is designed using botanic patterns on 100% silk fabric. Priced at £49 each, the cushions are guaranteed to add a bold finishing touch to your room. **Tel. 08456 049 049 or visit: www.johnlewis.com**

RIGHT
'Lobster Quadrille' is the latest range of fine printed wallpapers from British artist Georgia Horton. The lobsters are used to create a symmetrical pattern that pays great attention to detail and is intriguing on the eye. Available in four colourways including metallic, prices start from £167 per roll. **Tel. 01795 530 755 or visit: www.georgiahorton.com**

BELOW
Kit your bedroom out with the latest bed at Chattels. The 'Tully' upholstered bed by Massimoliano Marnati has a metal sled structure titanium finish and is available in either fabric or leather. Prices start from £1,950. **Tel. 01244 322 280 or visit: www.chattels-designerfurniture.co.uk**

ABOVE
The new 'Cappuccino' gloss kitchen from K-Kitchens is both sleek and ultra modern. For the latest look in kitchen design try teaming with a light oak-effect finish. Alternatively mix and match with other designs, colours and finishes for a kitchen that's truly you. Prices start from £137 for a standard door unit. **Tel. 0800 8 77 88 99 or visit: www.k-kitchens.co.uk**

RIGHT
The 'Spire' table lamp from Occa Home is the latest addition to an ever-expanding collection of stylish homewares. Featuring a vibrant gold texture and silk shade, this elegant and glamorous lamp is ideal for adding an accented accessory into your home. Priced at £251. **Tel. 0844 879 4258 or visit: www.occa-home.co.uk**

RIGHT
Compact and perfect for small spaces the leather 'Queen' chair from Natuzzi costs from £1280 and is inspired by traditional, timeless style. Combining classic detailing with comfort, 'Queen' is available in a variety of colours including a vibrant ruby red. **Tel. 0845 867 8506 or visit: www.natuzzi.co.uk**

DESIGN NEWS

A touch of Spain

Here at *CFL* we just love GUBI's collection of lamps designed by the late Spanish architect Barba Corsini. Having been involved in re-designing the attics of Gaudi's 'La Pedrera' in Barcelona, Corsini found inspiration for his lamps' cylindrical shape and holes in Gaudi's famous chimneys. The floor lamp, available in white or black, costs £459, while the table and pendant lamps, available in nickel, black, orange, white or light blue, cost £119 each. **Visit: www.gubi.com.**

HIGH STREET STYLE >>>

If you ever needed proof that you should never dismiss the high street when it comes to affordable designer style then take a look at the 2010 interior collection from Bhs – it's just bursting with colour. We love their bright acid lime green lamp and sumptuous purple sofa. Spun table lamp £120, Roxy 3-seater sofa, £899, Skyline table, £569, Saskia ceiling pendant, £240. **Visit: www.bhs.co.uk or tel. 0845 196 0000.**

BUILD YOUR OWN HOME...

...well not quite but if you have always dreamt of your own contemporary self-build how about creating your ideal home in miniature? The 'Lakeview' measures 703mm x 650mm x 407mm, and includes floor-to-ceiling windows, galleried upper floor and spiral staircases. Available in basic kit form or as a ready-painted flat pack, the 'Lakeview' costs from £165, and is one of over 25 house designs from Derbyshire-based The Dolls House Emporium. **Visit: www.dollshouse.co.uk/PRCFL or tel. 0845 434 7447 quoting reference PRCFL.**

BILLY'S BIRTHDAY

Who would have thought it, Ikea's 'Billy' bookcase is 30 years old! Created by Gillis Lundren, this simple storage solution has now been bought by over 41 million shoppers worldwide and to celebrate its enduring appeal Ikea has launched a number of limited edition designs. These include the 'Billy Jäder' adorned with Shakespeare quotes. Visit: www.ikea.co.uk or tel. 0845 355 1141.

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DESIGN NEWS

UTILITY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

November saw independent design retailer Utility celebrate a decade since opening the doors of its first store in Liverpool. To celebrate this milestone, Utility is now launching its first catalogue. Available to existing customers or by request online, the catalogue offers the same stylish mix of furniture, lighting and home accessories from independent designers and classic established brands, such as the Eames DSR Chair by Vitra, together with gorgeous and functional gifts. **To find out more tel. 0151 708 4192 or visit: www.utilitydesign.co.uk.**

Pedlars opens in Manchester >>>

Quirky home and lifestyle store Pedlars has just opened its latest concession shop-within-a shop at Selfridges, Trafford Centre, Manchester. The opening completes a hat trick of stores within Selfridges and the Manchester store, situated on the second floor, is crammed full of Pedlars' best sellers and one-off items. We love these funky woollen footstools, priced at £850. **Visit: www.pedlars.co.uk for more information.**

Roche Bobois and Dupoint™ in perfect partnership

'Spider' is an inventive furniture line made entirely from DuPont™ Corian® and produced and distributed by renowned French furnishings company Roche Bobois. The collection, consisting of a sideboard, dining table and coffee table, is the brainchild of designer Daniel Rode and is characterised by minimalist and essential lines. The key motif – intersecting, web-like lines – is repeated on every surface and each seamless piece contains no screws or metallic parts. 'Spider' sideboard, £4,918. **Visit: www.roche-bobois.com.**

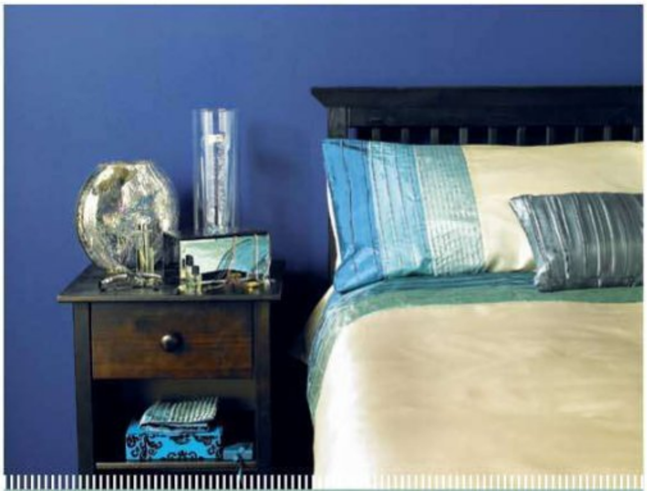
STYLE UNDERFOOT

'Tattoo by Louis Molloy' is the latest stunning collection by Rude Rugs. Designed by Manchester-based tattoo artist Louis Molloy, who is perhaps most famous for being the man behind David Beckham's angel tattoo, the range celebrates the global obsession with body art and ink. The iconic 'Rule Britannia' rug costs £450 per sqm and, like all Rude Rugs, is made to order in England using British Wool. **Visit: www.ruderugs.com or tel. 01423 871155.**

GREENER BY DESIGN

Recycled glass worktops are hot news right now, but what if you do not want the disruption and mess associated with replacing existing worktops? Then check out Granite Transformations' latest range of surfaces that can simply be fitted directly over your existing worktop – often in a single day. Fashioned from 100% recycled glass, there are eighteen designs to chose from, each made using fragments of glass bonded together with a clear polymer resin to produce a worktop that is extremely tough, heat, stain and scratch resistant. We love the dramatic 'Dream Green' made from lager, wine and mineral water bottles. Price from around £2,000 (incl. design and installation) for an average 4sqm kitchen.

To find out more tel. 08700 427 450 or visit: www.granitetransformations.co.uk.



Painting by numbers

Did you know that Homebase's 'Home Of Colour' is the UK's largest own-brand paint range? And with the addition of 48 brand new colours including Indigo (shown here), Soft Pebble, Bubblegum and Dove Grey, this 100% UK manufactured paint range is perfect for those looking for a quick and easy way to create a new look for 2010. All paints are available in matt or silk and cost £10.99 per 2.5lts.

Visit: www.homebase.co.uk.

STYLISH BUYS HELP STREET KIDS

In their campaign to promote the rights of street children around the world the charity, Consortium for Street Children, has recently launched a brand new online fair-trade shop. Offering an exciting alternative to the high street, 20% of all sales goes directly to support CSC – *CFL* favourites include these Earth Cream Bowler Bowls, £63.

Visit: http://streetchildren.ethictrade.com or tel. 01494 726352.

Measure up for curtains and blinds with The Natural Curtain Company's new online video. Designed to complement their existing measuring guide, the video, featuring a pair of dapper dogs, ensures the measuring process is easy to understand and carry out. **Check it out at: www.naturalcurtaincompany.co.uk.**

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HOMES

CONCEPT FOR LIVING'S PICK OF THE BEST HOMES AND GARDENS IN THE NORTH

30 DERBYSHIRE
A dilapidated Grade II listed barn has been transformed into a modern, vibrant family home.

38 MERSEYSIDE
An eclectic mix of old and new proves the perfect combination when decorating a lovingly renovated Victorian villa.

47 CHESHIRE
A dated bungalow was demolished to make way for a contemporary four-storey home complete with basement.

54 CHESHIRE
A trip to France provided the inspiration for a stunning oriental-style garden that can be enjoyed all year round.

THIS PAGE The home's traditional exterior belies its contemporary interior. Statement light fittings have been used throughout the house to highlight key pieces of furniture, such as a baby grand piano. **OPPOSITE** The chic modern kitchen features high gloss units and a solid oak island, and is the real hub of the home.

EVERYTHING BUT THE POOL

For some people, a Grade II listed site without planning permission, a newborn baby and adventurous designs may sound like a disaster waiting to happen – but for Matthew Fox and Liza Stratford, it was a dream opportunity.

Words **Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"People said the stone floor and steps would never work with a baby, but we are living proof that it does. We're happy to let Tom run riot"

When property developer Matthew Fox and his partner Liza Stratford bought a parcel of land within the curtilage of a Grade II-listed building in the historic Derbyshire town of Castle Donington five years ago, they had little idea of the scale of project they were embarking on. The site was home to two dilapidated barns, which were once used as outbuildings for the farmhouse next door. "When we bought the land, everything was completely overgrown," says Matthew. "The barns were without roofs and some of the bricks had fallen down, so we demolished them straight away."

It took the couple two years to gain planning permission to build two new houses and garage with studio apartment above on the footprints of the old units, and one of the main stipulations was that the barns were built to exactly the same size and shape as they were originally. Undeterred by this challenge, Matthew set about building the two smaller barns. "I wouldn't normally rush out and buy a Grade II-listed site within a conservation area," he says. "But it suited our requirements perfectly – we can walk to the village, there's a pub 200 yards down the road and we're near the airport so we can go on holiday very easily!"

As soon as they had built it, Matthew and Liza moved into the smaller, two-bedroom home. They then set their sights on the larger property, formerly a cow shed, for which Matthew had very ambitious plans. "The big dream was to build an enormous basement, the entire length of the house, and have a sauna, steam room, gym and full size pool. We built the smaller house and the garage block and then bottled it! We would have had to dig about 4,000 tons of mud so we didn't dare do it in the end."

With the plan now to keep the entire house above ground, Matthew and Liza ploughed ahead, building the home's shell in just over four months before deciding on the internal layout. From the outset, the couple wanted underfloor heating throughout the ground floor of their new home, as this streamline, unobtrusive system would work well with the proposed open-plan layout. By the time Komfort Underfloor »»»

OPPOSITE Matthew and Liza were initially worried about baby Tom's safety on their stone floor, but so far he has been absolutely fine. **THIS PAGE TOP** The couple have always lived in open-plan houses, but this is by far the best. **BOTTOM** A modern swivel log burner creates a focal point in the living room, with the chopped logs adding rustic charm.

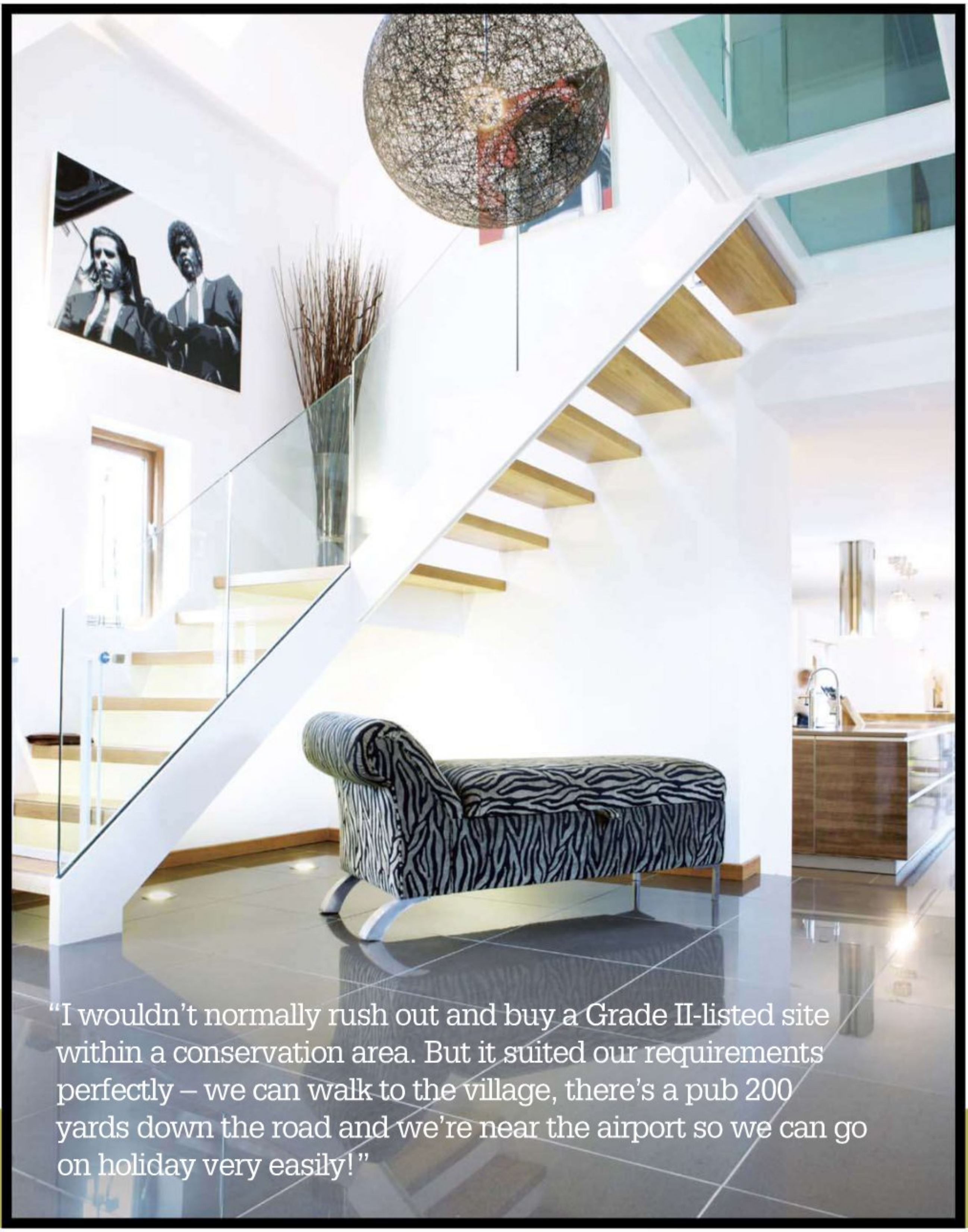
Heating Supplies had installed the new heating system, Liza was eight months pregnant with the couple's first child, and the house was almost completed when the baby was due. "Liza was in hospital for three days after having Tom, and when she came out we moved into the new house," says Matthew. "There were about 15 workmen still working on it, and the first time the midwife came round we were still welding the staircase – there were sparks everywhere, and I'm sure the midwife thought we were bonkers! It was a bit of an epic journey, building our own house with a newborn baby in tow."

With the house completed and baby Tom busy adapting to his new environment, the couple turned their attention to the home's interior. "We wanted something really open; for me, perfect houses are the ones you can bike around," says Matthew. "We've always made our previous homes as open-plan as we can, but this is as good as it's got."

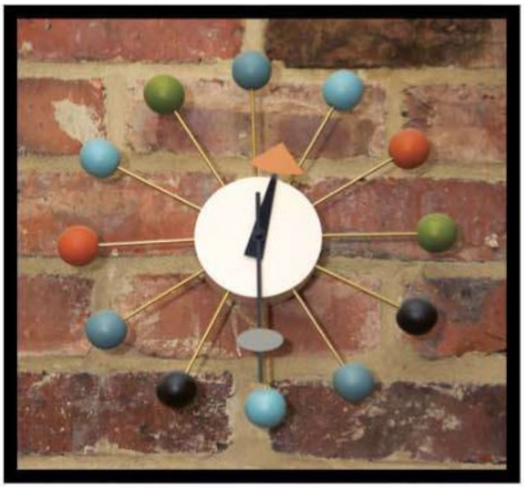
The couple started by painting all the walls white, then added colour with accessories and a mixture of contemporary and vintage furniture. The kitchen, featuring high gloss units and a breakfast island with solid oak worktop, forms the hub of the home and is well placed between the dining and living rooms. "We've always lived in the kitchen, so we wanted it right in the middle of the house," says Matthew. A high gloss stone floor runs throughout the open-plan kitchen/dining room with two steps between the kitchen and living room and another into the dining area. The steps, which were unavoidable due to the original footprint of the cow shed, initially caused concern for Matthew and Liza because of Tom, but so far they have found the floor surprisingly safe for the 18-month-year-old. "People said the stone floor and steps would never work with a baby, but we are living proof that it does," says Matthew. "We're happy to let Tom run riot. There have been a couple of horrible times when he's been sitting on the top step and we knew he was going to go backwards. But he's got the hang of it now!"

Lime green sofas sit alongside a vintage Chesterfield sofa next to the kitchen, with classic high-backed chairs and »»»

THIS PAGE TOP The exposed brick wall and high gloss stone floor make the perfect resting place for this classic Chesterfield sofa. **BOTTOM** A vintage oak pew is just one of many eclectic pieces to be found throughout the home. **OPPOSITE** The couple wanted a staircase with the 'wow' factor – and these oak and glass steps leading to a glass bridge certainly get the thumbs up from *CFL*!



"I wouldn't normally rush out and buy a Grade II-listed site within a conservation area. But it suited our requirements perfectly – we can walk to the village, there's a pub 200 yards down the road and we're near the airport so we can go on holiday very easily!"



an oak table creating the dining area. In the living room, a swivel log burner makes a statement focal point, with a baby grand piano behind and contemporary grey corner sofas completing the look. For the staircase, Matthew and Liza wanted something eye-catching, and opted for an open-tread staircase with oak treads and minimalist glass ballustrading, with a stylish glass bridge linking the first floor. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a family bathroom and the master suite featuring a bathtub and en-suite bathroom. Matthew paid particular attention to the lighting throughout the home, with recessed up- and down-lighters in the living areas and sensor lighting in all the bathrooms.

The property is Matthew and Liza's ideal home, and the five years it took to achieve it has been completely worth it – although for Matthew the idea of a basement leisure floor is still an alluring one. "This was intended to be our dream home, and making it has been a dream," he says. "Having said that, I do still want a snooker room and pool, so that's the only thing I would move for!"

Liza's verdict is nothing but positive. "I've fallen in love with it," she says. "It feels like a real family home, even though it's big and contemporary. And the time it has taken has made us appreciate it even more. We're very settled here and we love it."

ADDRESS BOOK:

The 'ClipRail' underfloor heating system was installed by Komfort Underfloor Heating Supplies.
Visit: www.komfort-ufh.co.uk or tel. 01600 715 287.

The kitchen was designed and built by Steven Christopher Design. **Visit: www.sc-dg.co.uk or tel. 0115 937 0700.**

The clock in the kitchen and coat hooks in the entrance hall are from Nest. **Visit: www.nest.co.uk**

Much of the furniture in the home is from Hopewells, Nottingham.
Visit: www.hopewells.co.uk or call 0115 953 6000.

THIS PAGE Matthew and Liza placed the bathtub in the master bedroom, ensuring they never have to walk too far for a relaxing soak! **BOTTOM** The first floor office has been designed with classic style and practicality in mind.

DINING AREA

Keep good time without compromising on style. We love the 'Spider' clock from The Contemporary Home, priced at £44.99 you'll want one for every room.

HALLWAY

Throughout their home Matthew and Lisa have introduced vibrant art pieces. You can do the same with, the 'Afro' diva canvas, £170 from Artylicious.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Matthew and Liza's Home is full of colour, textures and vibrant prints, while also featuring classical key pieces. So why not take a little inspiration from this funky young family home. **For stockist details see page 126**

LIVING AREA

Make a true designer statement with a centrally placed stove. Priced at £2,297.71, the F373 stove from Jotul will bring an instant 'wow' factor to any room.

KITCHEN AREA

Stay classic with a 'Bensington' chesterfield from Halo. Priced at £2,299 this stylish sofa provides endless hours of relaxation and would sit comfortably in any room in the home.

MAIN BEDROOM

Check out the black 'Now & Then' lamp, £94.99 from Amode. It's the perfect accessory to add to your bedroom, so set the mood today.

KITCHEN

Good lighting is essential in the kitchen. Check out this bright option from Heal's, priced at £180. Place above work areas for instant impact.

LIVING AREA

Sturdy and stylish a high gloss bookcase is the sleek option for storage space. Hide away clutter with this style conscious piece and add to your home today. Priced at, £299, Dwell.

LEFT The second reception room makes the perfect workroom and is large enough to house ongoing projects such as the wooden chair which is upholstered in one of Louise's own fabrics. **THIS PAGE** Louise used warming cream tones to create a relaxing atmosphere in the breakfast room.

Back to the Future

A Merseyside couple took on the task of renovating a run-down Victorian house – and have created a beautiful home filled with the old and the new.

Words **Paula Woods and Jennie Musgrove** Photography **Lizzie Orme**

THIS PAGE LEFT Most of the fireplaces, including the one in the living room, had been removed, so Louise sourced replacements at local reclamation yards and specialist dealers. **THIS PAGE RIGHT** The couple kept the old bath and resurfaced it before adding a new toilet and basin. The mirrored over-mantle is one of Louise's favourite finds! **RIGHT** The spare bedroom houses an ever-growing collection of vintage nursery items and toys which Louise now sells through her business.

When Louise Bell and her partner Mike bought their large Victorian semi in Southport, it wasn't exactly what you would call 'homely'. The property's seven bedrooms, one bathroom and leaky roof were accompanied by decades of dirt, old newspapers and the type of furniture that even the local Salvation Army refused to re-home. The couple managed to see through the clutter to the property's potential however, and relished the chance to take on the challenge of creating their ideal home. "We love older houses with their high ceilings and real fires and this offered us plenty of space, plus the opportunity to put our own stamp on the interior," says Louise. "Luckily it had also escaped the trend for installing uPVC windows, and the beautiful stained glass sash windows were one of the reasons we were so keen to purchase the property."

Although Louise and Mike were keen to take on the challenge, they had little idea just how long the renovation would take, or how much hard labour it would involve. The fact that they continued to run their own business throughout the renovation proved even more of a challenge, but they set out nonetheless, determined to create their dream home.

Prior to purchase, a house-clearance firm had paid for the right to remove anything of interest, but due to the dilapidated state of much of the furniture, they left much of it behind. On receiving the keys to their new home, Louise and Mike found that they had not only purchased a home, but also rather a lot of rubbish, and it took a fortnight to clear the house of debris. "By all accounts the previous owner had been a bit eccentric and we were greeted with »»»

"We love older houses with their high ceilings and real fires and this offered us plenty of space, plus the opportunity to put our own stamp on the interior"

KNITTING
THE FOURTH BOOK OF HOWS

LEFT Louise fell in love with the colour of this painted dresser. Bought as part of a pair, the other stands in the living room and was already stripped. **BELOW LEFT** Evidence of Louise's previous career as a trained milliner can be seen in her collection of wooden hat moulds and busts. **BELOW RIGHT** A door was moved in one of the smaller bedrooms to create the shocking pink 1930s-inspired dressing room which is now accessed from the main bedroom.

"I like a house to be homely and welcoming with the emphasis on comfort. A good mixture of old and new makes a house more welcoming, as if it has evolved naturally over time"

a cellar full of old tins of food, many of which had rusted through and the contents desiccated," says Louise."

The house had been owned by the same lady since the 30s and was used as a seaside B&B during the 70s, so the couple spent weeks stripping back layers and layers of old wallpaper and removing copious amounts of carpet before the real work could begin. Beneath the surface, the building was in quite a state of disrepair and Louise and Mike had all the exterior walls re-pointed, the back wall entirely rebuilt, and a new roof installed.

Although the couple brought in professionals to carry out the major roofing and building projects, they carried out most of the remaining work themselves. Miles of old lead piping had to be removed, the wiring and plumbing replaced and a new gas central heating system, kitchen and bathroom fitted. On top of this, the floorboards had to be stripped and the couple repaired the sash windows where necessary. They also had etched glass fitted in the front door and both bathroom windows.

Most of the home's original fireplaces had been replaced with gas fires so Louise and Mike removed them and fitted suitable open grates and fire surrounds. They also uncovered an original inglenook in the breakfast room, which had been filled and covered by a 1930s fireplace. The newly restored inglenook now houses a cosy wood-burner in the space where the Victorian range would have stood.

The renovation was not completely free of problems however, as Louise explains: "There was an outdoor toilet and wash house in the back garden, completely covered in ivy. When Mike tried to remove it from the brickwork, the building simply collapsed with him on top of it! Fortunately he was alright and we were able to transform the new space into a sunny terrace."

After a year of renovating, the house was finally at the point where Louise and Mike could move in. They persisted with the renovation and gradually began to see the transformation of their home. The original bathroom »»»

BELOW LEFT Painted tongue and groove panelling adds country cottage styling into what is quite a modern kitchen. **BELOW RIGHT** This beautiful stone surround was the only original fireplace left in the property and now provides a great backdrop for some of Louise's many collected treasures.

"By all accounts the previous owner had been a bit eccentric and we were greeted with a cellar full of old tins of food, many of which had rusted through and the contents desiccated"

ADDRESS BOOK:

All the wallpaper and fabrics are designed by the couple and, along with vintage items for the home, are available from Louise Loves.
Visit: www.louiseloves.co.uk or tel. 01928 551 226

Louise and Mike used paints from The Little Greene Paint Company.
Visit: www.littlegreene.com or tel. 0845 880 5855

Knowsley Art Glass supplied glass designs in keeping with the age of the house.
Visit: www.artglass.org.uk or tel. 0151 489 2214

was restored and the door of the smallest bedroom was moved in order to create a dressing room off the master bedroom. Original features such as cornices and picture rails were thankfully still in place throughout the home, although a missing ceiling rose in the living room had to be replaced with a good quality reproduction.

When it finally came to decorating their home, Louise and Mike decided that rather than try to emulate any particular style or era, they would simply put together colours, materials and furnishings that appealed to them. "I like a house to be homely and welcoming with the emphasis on comfort," says Louise. "A good mixture of old and new makes a house more welcoming, as if it has evolved naturally over time."

Within the home, traditional materials such as slate, stone and stripped and painted wood sit alongside vintage-inspired wallpaper and bolder, more contemporary colour schemes. Fabrics range from delicate floral cottons to heavier dramatic tapestries and jazzy crochet squares, while an array of accessories covering ever era from Victorian through to the late 50s adorn every room.

This laidback approach gives the home a seemingly effortless charm, but getting the balance right is a tricky business – which is where the couple's background in interiors comes in handy. Together, Louise and Mike deal in vintage pieces as well as designing their own wallpapers and fabrics. It took the couple four years to transform the once tired and junk-filled property into the warm and homely abode it is now, but according to Louise, it was worth the wait. "By the time we had finished, a couple of rooms had actually been done twice," she says. "However it was definitely worth the effort and frankly we loved every minute of it." In fact the couple appear to have enjoyed the experience so much that they are now embarking on another mammoth project – turning a neglected old stables and stable master's cottage, in rural Wales, into what is sure to be another beautiful and unique home.

LIVING ROOM »»»

Create instant impact by hanging an oversized feature mirror in your living room. The curvaceous and stylish 'Halo' mirror, £199 from Halo Living will prove the perfect bold accessory to add to your home.

BEDROOM

IAdd instant style with a chic and cosy bedspread from Cath Kidston. And when you want to ring the changes simply reverse to reveal a cute polka dot blue pattern. Grab yours today priced at £135.

BEDROOM »»»

Introduce detail and light your home with pretty statement lighting. This floral lampshade, £25 from Berry Red doesn't need to be big to make an impact.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Louise and Mike's eclectic home pays great attention to detail. Each room has an abundant of character and style thanks to a clever mix of both old and new products. Do the same and create a home with real warmth. **For stockist details see page 126**

MAIN BEDROOM »»»

Louise and Mike have found some beautiful vintage mannequins whilst sourcing items for their online store. Check out our hot find from The Orchid. This gold mannequin is priced £76 and is available from Not On The High Street.

BREAKFAST ROOM

What could be better than relaxing in front of a roaring log fire? We've found the eye-catching 'Country 4' wood burner, £575 from Charnwood that not only looks great but would work well in any room.

BATHROOM

Check out this curvaceous cast iron bath from The 21st Century Radiator Company. Priced at £910 it is ideal for that long, lazy soak!

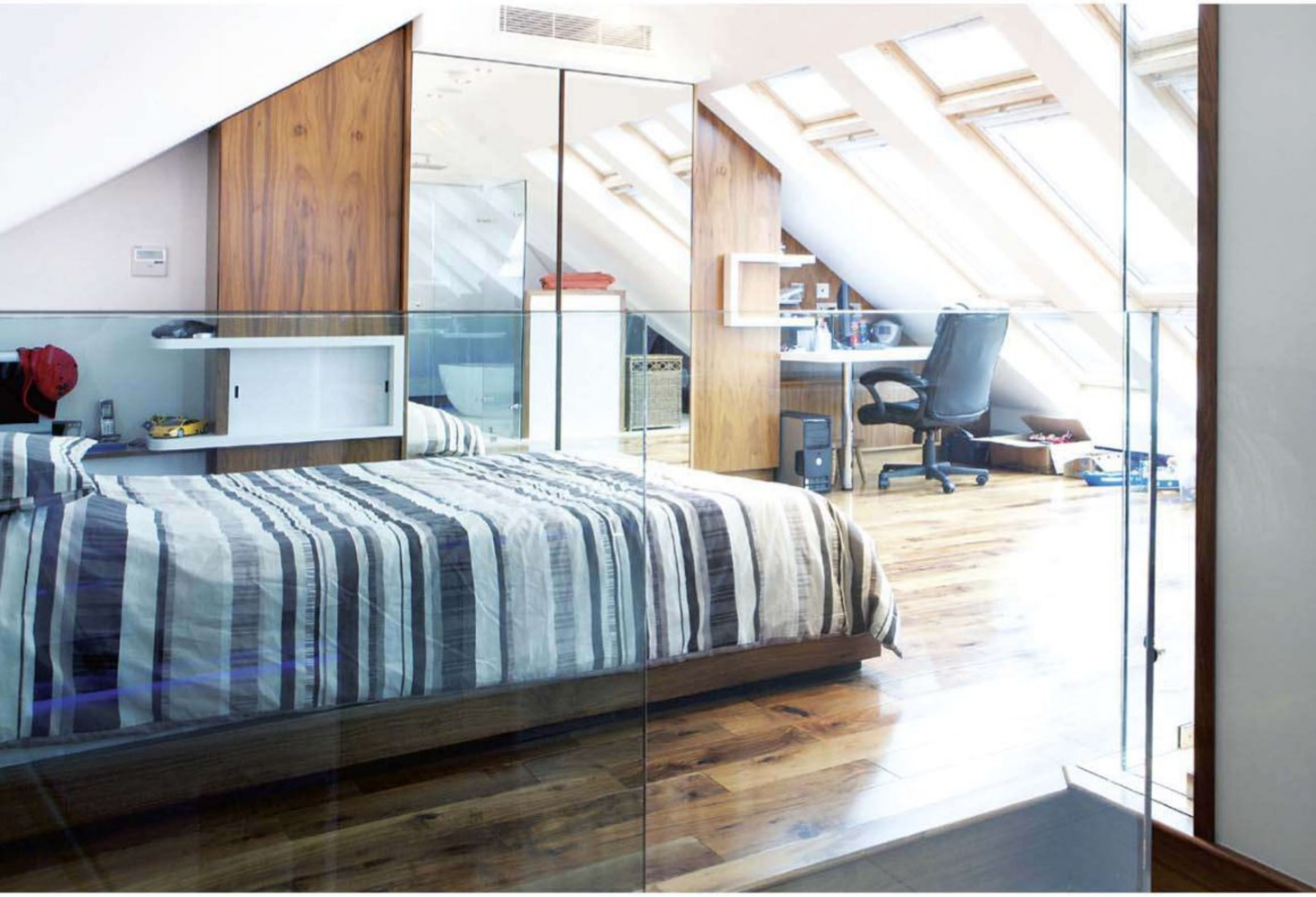
KITCHEN

Make use of wasted wall space with a handy peg rail. Add a touch of character with Re's vintage wooden peg rails – both useful and decorative. Priced £32 each.

GOING UNDERGROUND

The four-storey thoroughly modern property that Linda and Sean Fitzpatrick call home was originally a bungalow, which the couple demolished to create a new house complete with basement. The result is a stunning contemporary yet cosy family home.

Words **Caroline Jones and Katie Cotgrave** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**



THIS PAGE Every boy's dream bedroom: modern, masculine, striking and bright.
OPPOSITE A huge sofa and relaxing space is the perfect place to entertain friends – for both children and adults alike, creating a real family home.

"Originally we were having a swimming pool in the basement, but we decided against that because we felt the space was more valuable as a living area. Then we considered the garden, but it's such a lovely view, and how often do you really use a pool?"

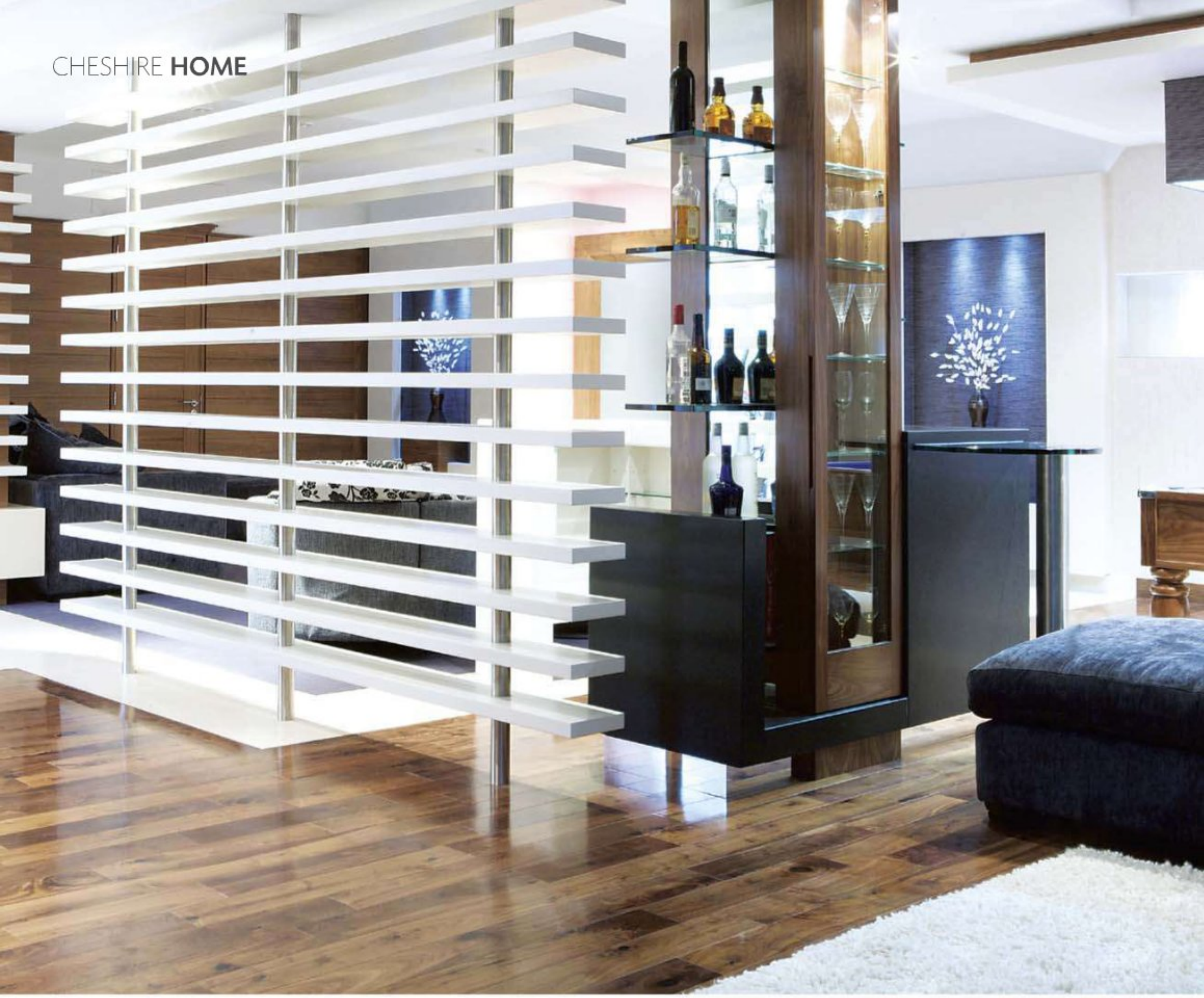
THIS PAGE An elegant glass staircase leads from the basement to a light and airy ground-floor dining area.
OPPOSITE The thoroughly contemporary kitchen was designed by David Lisle Furniture, while the luxe granite worktops came from The Natural Stone Emporium.

When Linda and Sean moved into their new Cheshire home last June, along with their two teenage sons and family dog, Tia, the property could not have been more different from the one they originally purchased three years earlier. The couple had transformed the dated bungalow into a four-storey family home that oozes contemporary style. But it was a transformation that they had in mind right from the start. "When we bought the bungalow, we knew we were going to demolish it," says Linda. "Our previous house was built on the site of a bungalow, so we knew that we were going to build a new house when we bought this place. The site was fantastic!"

Having been through the ambitious process before, and working in the building profession, Sean, who designed and built their previous home, could envisage what he wanted to do to the new property and how it would end up looking. While Linda admits she took a bit of persuading to leave their old home and tackle a vast new project. "I think because Sean's in the building trade, he could visualise what it was going to be like," she says. "But I couldn't see the potential until I had four walls to work with."

The couple, who have lived in the area for six years, tackled the grand design as a team; but decided they needed professionals to help bring out the best of such an exciting and large project. Sean pulled together a team comprising Rod Willet, who handled the first stage of the project – fundamental architectural design, planning and so on, Don Hobson c/o Design who would take over the detailed design and construction stage of the property and James Mather of the Natural Stone Emporium. All worked closely with Sean who would build the new family home, while Linda took the reigns when it came to the interior. Until all that could take place though, there was the enormous architectural challenge of creating the proposed basement. To build the basement area, which now boasts a huge, elegant staircase and very high ceilings, some 350 wagons of earth were removed to get the foundations as deep as they needed to be.

Technicalities such as preventing dampness and future flooding also had to be borne in mind. "The basement took a long time," says Linda. "There was a lot of working involved in creating the basement because of the clay ground conditions here and a lot of water, so it is doubled-skinned." Taking every precaution possible, Sean essentially created a basement within a »»»



basement, so you can actually walk around the outside of the basement walls, inside the house. "Everybody, even other professionals, have said that they've never known a basement like it," says Linda. "Sean wanted the challenge though, he always wanted to build a house with a truly usable basement area."

The end result is a fantastic space, which is ideal for the family. The basement area offers all the facilities the boys (big and small) could wish for complete with cinema space, enormous sofa area, glazed wine cellar, bar and pool table. "Originally we were having a swimming pool in the basement, but we decided against that because we felt the space was more valuable as a living area. Then we considered the garden, but it's such a lovely view, and how often do you really use a pool?" says Linda.

This notion of functionality for the family and a desire to make the home feel as cosy as possible while giving it a modern, contemporary edge is what drove Linda's interior design brief to Don. She opted for a warm, neutral colour palette, incorporating deluxe creams and chic browns throughout most of the home. For the guest suites, the neutral theme was continued, while the colours for the master bedroom and en-suite were more tailor-made to the personal choice of Linda and Sean, with Linda adding lush violet and plum shades and experimenting with the odd bold print. Meanwhile when buying furniture and accessories to dress the home she wasn't afraid to mix designer and high street pieces, simply trusting her taste. "If I saw something I liked I made sure I got it when I saw it," she says. "So everything's from everywhere."

Tackling such a big project all in one go, was it daunting? "I had to learn to flow," says Linda. "At my last house I tended to do each room one at a time, but here I couldn't do that, I was doing it all together. It can »»»

ADDRESS BOOK:

The architect for the project was Rod Willet. **Tel. 01625 879 178 for more details.**

The design and construction stage of the project was handled by Don Hobson c/o Design. **Tel. 07545 696 911 for further information.**

Natural stone tiling and bathroom furniture throughout the home, plus granite kitchen worktops by The Natural Stone Emporium. **Visit: www.stone-emporium.co.uk or tel. 0845 491 8791 for further information.**

The kitchen was designed and fitted by David Lisle Furniture, Macclesfield. **Visit: www.davidlisle.co.uk or tel. 01625 503092 for more details.**

"I knew quite firmly that I wanted all the bathrooms to have a neutral palette, thus allowing more versatility with accent colours in towels, blinds etc."

OPPOSITE PAGE The open-plan basement is ideal for modern family living. **THIS PAGE** A neutral, natural colour palette creates warmth and a sense of fusion.

"It's modern, but it's still got a cosy feel to it. Our last house was a bit more traditional, whereas with having teenage boys they wanted to go more modern"

be hard when you're choosing things, because you've got to keep in mind what you want in one room, while bearing in mind the other rooms too."

While juggling the interior flow of home may have been tricky, Linda knew exactly what she envisaged for one particular area of the home. "I had quite firm ideas about what I wanted in the bathrooms," she says "I wanted all the bathrooms to have a neutral palette, thus allowing more versatility with accent colours in towels, blinds etc." The bathrooms are quite possibly the jewels in this home's crown: from the sleek, incredibly modern-looking boys' bathrooms with their in-shower TVs and huge walk-through showers, to the warm, welcoming oasis of calm that the guest and master en-suite bathrooms offer. "Our designer, and James from the Natural Stone Emporium, did a great job of the boys' bedrooms and bathrooms as this was a really difficult space because of the roof line and height restrictions," explains Linda.

Integral to the bathroom design were the stone tiles that make up the luxurious-looking floors and walls. Linda worked collaboratively with her designer and James from the Natural Stone Emporium on and off for six months to get the exact look she wanted. "With the tiles it depends on what you want," she says. "Some can be quite stark, clean and white, but I wanted to carry on the warm look."

The ethos behind Linda and Sean's bathrooms is really the design notion behind the house as a whole – modern and striking, with the 'wow' factor, but ultimately functional and inviting. "I love the kitchen area because it's just so open-plan. I love the family room, and the views, too. I just feel happy that we've got a family, cosy home," she says. "Our last house was a bit more traditional, whereas with having teenage boys they wanted to go more modern with this one and I think we've struck a great balance. This home is modern, but it's still got a cosy feel to it."

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Accents of plums and purples give a warm, personal feel to the master bedroom. The boys' bathroom on the top floor is strikingly contemporary. The basement was designed and built especially as part of the renovation project.

BASEMENT

Keep your fish happy with the contemporary 'Biorb' fish tank from Reef One. This cutting edge design can be easily placed throughout the home and is sure to make a statement. Prices start from £209.

BASEMENT

Keep the family entertained with a luxury snooker table from John Lewis. Priced at £399 the 'BCE Pinancle' table not only looks good but provides hours of fun.

DINING ROOM »»»

Be bold with a white ornate chandelier, £119.99 from The Contemporary Home. For best results place over a dining table or in the entrance of your home.

STEAL THEIR STYLE

Sean and Linda Fitzpatrick's cosy family house is a mix of hi-tech contemporary products and neutral calming tones. If you're looking to create a similar feel, then look no further. **For stockist details see page 126**

MAIN BEDROOM

Purple is one of Linda's favourite colours and can easily be introduced through the use of accessories. We love this purple origami cushion, £14.99 from Dunelm Mill.

BASEMENT

Relax after a hard day's work on the 'Ankara' reversible sofa, £699 from Dwell. Available in a variety of colours you can choose what works best for both your lifestyle and home.

MAIN BEDROOM »»»

Linda and Sean have used a selection of carefully considered ornaments and vases throughout their home. Check out the 'Elina' purple glassware from Beth Stevens, prices start from £11.50 for a water glass. Simply mix and match to suit.

KITCHEN »»»

The 'Baldis' chair priced at £150 is simple yet elegant and ideal for family dining. Grab your set from Wood Empire and choose from a variety of colours on offer.

茶店

Turning Japanese

A unique Oriental-inspired garden tucked away in Ellesmere Port has been designed as an adaptable space, suiting all seasons and one couple's needs perfectly.

Words **Caroline Jones** Photography **Eleri Griffiths**

"We love the garden any weather and use it all year round. Even in winter, we always stop for a coffee in the garden"

OPPOSITE A trip to a Japanese garden in France led the Roberts to create their own Oriental-inspired outdoor space.
ABOVE The garden is full of interesting corners and cosy spots in which the couple can sit back and enjoy their hard work.

When Sandra and David Roberts took a trip to France in 2002 they thought they'd come home with just the usual holiday souvenirs, instead, they returned bursting with design ideas for their garden, too. While across the Channel they visited Parc Oriental de Maulévrier, a Japanese public garden in the Pays de la Loire, and it was a place they found truly inspirational. "When we discovered the garden it was amazing," says Sandra. "The entrance was like a Japanese teahouse, that's where we got the idea for ours, and as we walked up the hill, it was like entering another world. Peaceful and tranquil, it was such a beautiful sight – the red bridge, the Acers, topiary. Out came the notepad and pencil and we started jotting down ideas and sketching drawings immediately."

The Roberts bought their detached Ellesmere Port property with a third of an acre of land several years ago with the design project for the outdoor space in mind. At the time, the ground was all lawn with just three standard rose bushes and little else in the way of flowers and foliage. Ever since, the garden has been an ongoing project. "David did all the design and built the sandstone walls," explains Sandra. "He isn't trained in gardening, but he has a passion for buildings and architecture and tries to incorporate that love of design in the garden."

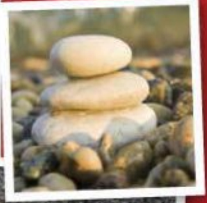
This passion displays itself in every corner of the Roberts' garden, from the carefully selected plants, to the attention to detail in accessories like the sundial, decorative watering cans and lanterns, plus the obvious time and effort that they take all year round maintaining and caring for the space. "To keep the garden looking neat we hoe on a regular basis," says Sandra. "We hoe most of the year, even during winter, to keep down the weeds and we take time to cut the shrubs and carry out other general maintenance, but we do it because we enjoy spending time out here."

When designing the garden, David was careful to choose a wide variety of plants that would ensure the space worked continually throughout all four seasons. He selected plants that would add colour, a green backdrop and texture all year round, including Yew, Box and Bay trees, »»»

How to create a Japanese garden

David and Sandra have taken the essence of Japanese garden design to create their peaceful outdoor space. If you fancy doing the same Cheri LaMay from Earthworks Garden Design shows you how.

In traditional Japanese Zen gardens there are five main elements: stone, sand or gravel, water, plants and space. These elements represent and convey the balance of nature. You don't have to use all five elements, but every element within the garden should contribute to the simplistic balance, peace and tranquillity.



1 Stones are an important component, representing islands and mountains, as well as age and character.

2 Gravel is usually white or pale grey and fairly smooth. Traditionally, raking the gravel is a form of meditation.

3 Waterfalls and ponds are often part of the Zen garden. A simple way to add water is to include a shallow dish to catch rainwater, and reflect the sky.

4 Classic plants include the Acer (Japanese Maple) which symbolises the cycle of life as its leaves turn bright red in autumn then shed before winter before budding again in spring. Evergreen trees stand for permanence and pine trees are often trained to look windblown, and to stay small. You can use evergreen clump-forming, non-invasive varieties of bamboo such as Phyllostachys nigra (Black bamboo) or Phyllostachys aurea (Golden bamboo).

5 Open space is an important element to create balance – just like having uncluttered space in your home, uncluttered space outdoors frees the mind and allows you to relax. So plan your Zen area before you plant it up to ensure there is enough open space for you to enjoy and unwind in.

For more about Earthworks Garden Design visit: www.earthworksnorth.co.uk

"We use the summer and teahouse a lot, we have Easter egg hunts and hide treats in the teahouse and at Christmas we decorated it and light it up – my niece and nephew love it"

ABOVE A range of looks are on display in the garden - not just Japanese. A cluster of watering cans creates a hint of English country garden.
OPPOSITE The black-painted teahouse adds an exotic touch to the space.

Black grass and Skimmia, which has beautiful, striking red berries. "We also have a copper beech hedge, which is lovely when the leaves turn purple and it creates a gorgeous backdrop against which to set your plants," says Sandra.

Colour was another key design aspect of the garden for Sandra and David, introducing a theme of blocks of blues and pinks, along with a distinct Japanese influence thanks to their trip to Parc Oriental de Maulévrier. "We went back again in 2008 and still found the place amazing," says Sandra. A hint of the Orient can be found in their outdoor area from the selection of plants like Acers, to the striking design of the deep charcoal teahouse with its splash of vibrant red Japanese symbols.

But the Roberts wanted to take the essence of a Japanese garden – notoriously intricately planned spaces that balance water, stones, plants and the senses – rather than stick rigidly to the "rules" of Japanese gardening. "We haven't set out to incorporate all aspects of a Japanese garden," says Sandra. "We have topiary in Yew and Box by the teahouse, and black grass in the sandstone wall, but we have yet to add a specific Japanese water feature. We do have a pond made of sandstone with a small courtyard though, with Acers and a table and chairs – it's a lovely spot to enjoy on a summer's day."

Meanwhile, clusters of pots, shrubs and the sandstone walls create depth and add variety and interesting dimensions, tempting visitors to explore the space. Two particular visitors who enjoy the garden and all it has to offer are Sandra's young niece and nephew. "We use the summer and teahouse a lot, we have Easter egg hunts and go to the teahouse for treats and at Christmas we decorated it and light it up. My niece and nephew, Lillie and Ruben, really love it. We all do," says Sandra.

The Roberts now have an outdoor space that brings elements of the peace, tranquillity and exoticism of the Parc Oriental de Maulévrier to their own back garden, making it a refreshing place they treasure. "We enjoy the garden very much and spend a lot of time in it," says Sandra. "We love the garden during any weather and use it all year round – it's lovely to sit in on a summer evening with a glass of wine and even in winter we always stop for a coffee in the garden, what more could we ask for?"

ADDRESS BOOK:

The metal garden furniture is from Marks & Spencer.
Visit: www.marksandspencer.com, or tel. 0845 609 0200.

Many of the plants in the garden are from the Burleydam Garden Centre, Little Sutton.
Visit: www.burleydamgardencentre.co.uk, or tel. 0151 339 3195.

Building supplies for the garden came from Principal Building Supplies, Little Sutton. **Tel. 0151 339 9990 for further information.**

Aspects of the garden design were inspired by Parc Oriental de Maulévrier, Pays de la Loire, France.
Visit: www.parc-oriental.com for more details.

"The copper beech hedge is lovely when the leaves turn purple and it creates a gorgeous backdrop against which to set your plants"

OPPOSITE Lush green foliage, splashes of colour and well-placed accessories give the garden tempting points of interest for visitors to explore.
ABOVE The Roberts love to spend time in the summerhouse – it's the perfect suntrap in the summer, but can also be enjoyed in the winter thanks to its roof.

2010 STYLE REPORT

Last year's philosophy was "Make do and mend" – revamping what you already owned and cherished and investing in timeless 'forever' pieces that will last for years to come. So what does 2010 have in store for your home? Caroline Jones quizzed the owners, buyers and designers of the North's best home stores to bring you the key trends for 2010. So here are this year's most-wanted looks...

Phillip J Ashworth, managing director of Wigan-based Abitare, advises making room for subtle, strong pieces with clear functionality if your home is to be on-trend in 2010.

"Under-furnishing, colour and motion: these three things will be the backbone for 2010. Freestanding furniture such as modular cabinets will feature heavily and colour and design will be used to make the most of every space. Furniture that functions, such as the 'Surround' sofa from Natuzzi with ratchet backs, an iPod docking station and built-in speakers, will strengthen what we have seen in 2009."

Abitare. Tel. 01942 248 842 or visit: www.abitareuk.com

'Surround' sofa, by Pasquale Natuzzi, from £5,050, Abitare.

NATURAL BEAUTY

Juliette Barrell, marketing director of upmarket furnishing company Wesley-Barrell, predicts natural materials, such as wood, stone, linen, wool and bamboo are here to stay for the new decade.

'Bladon' button-backed chair, from £1,335, Wesley Barrell.

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT WILL BE A KEY TREND FOR 2010?

"There will be a quiet restraint to decorating trends for 2010. Use of wood, stone, linens and wools will lend a textural beauty that comes from the inherent qualities of materials rather than lots of applied surface decoration."

"Environmental consciousness brings with it an emerging aesthetic, whilst craft and the handmade will continue to find favour. Where patterns are concerned, they will boldly reflect the natural world with stylised leaf and flower motifs."

"The use of natural materials brings with it its own colour palette of muted greys, stone and lichen green with flashes of plum and berry colours to lift the scheme."

HOW WILL THESE TRENDS BE APPLIED TO THE MODERN HOME?

"We'll see lots of wools, plain or smart checks and stripes on tailored sofas with elegant profiles. Linens will be a key upholstery trend, while for curtaining, bamboo has excellent eco credentials when used in fabrics."

"Wood floors will feature, but with a salvage yard, recycled wooden flooring edge, as will freestanding furniture. Re-used and salvaged items will be seen not just as thrifty and environmentally responsible, but also as having an inherent lived-in beauty."

Wesley-Barrell.
Visit: www.wesley-barrell.co.uk

'Evenlode' 2.5-seater sofa, from £1,915, Wesley Barrell.

JULIETTE'S TOP TIP...

..."Add a beautiful throw or cushion to dress a neutral sofa and give free rein to a more exuberant pattern or block of colour. Invest in one piece with hand-tailored detailing or revamp an old favourite in a stronger colour to give a neutral palette more oomph."

'Manoir' dining table, £1,305, and chairs, £225 each, all Wesley Barrell.

'Mata' rug, from £529, BoConcept.

COLOUR SPLASHES

Michelle Potter, interior design consultant at Liverpool-based Elaine Cunningham Interiors considers lime greens and citrus yellows mixed with plum purples to be the key palette for this year.

'Imola' chair with headrest, from £1,599, BoConcept.

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT WILL BE A KEY TREND FOR 2010?

"To welcome in 2010, citrus colours such as lime green and yellow mixed with plush purples will be making a comeback adding a zing to those dreary days as we head towards spring!"

"Bold wallpaper on a feature wall throughout the home is still creating the 'wow' factor and for the less adventurous, brightly patterned cushions will add that little bit of fun to the room."

HOW WILL THESE TRENDS BE APPLIED TO THE MODERN HOME?

"You don't need to start painting your walls lime green to achieve the citrus look! Simple touches with accessories throughout your home will not only brighten dull days, but also create a flow throughout the house."

"There are lots of ways to apply this to the home; luxurious flock wallpaper on a feature wall in the bedroom, a feature chair in the living room, bright towels in the bathroom – the options are endless!"

Elaine Cunningham Interiors. Tel: 0845 500 5060 or visit: www.elainecunninghaminteriors.com

Candlesticks, £41, BoConcept.

MICHELLE'S TOP TIP...

"Updating accessories can brighten a room and give it a lift. Cushions, artwork or even a vase can instantly give living areas new atmosphere. While in the bedroom fresh white linen with bright cushions or a bedspread injects a sense of luxury without spending a fortune."

Cushions, from £39, BoConcept.

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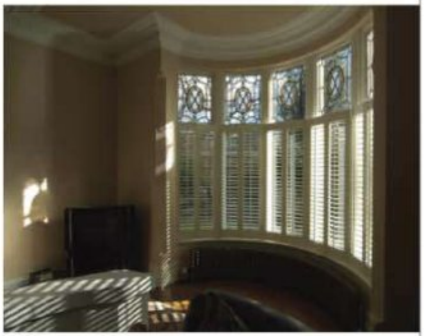

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LUXE LIVING

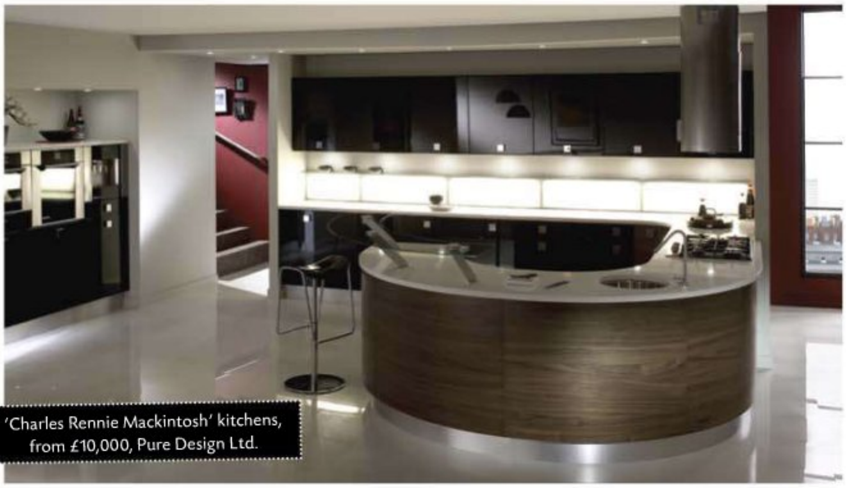
William Vaughan-Payne, senior designer at Leeds-based Pure Design Ltd, expects high-gloss luxury will feature heavily in bathrooms and kitchens and spill into the rest of the home.

'Jesse Regalo' systems, £495, Pure Design Ltd.

'Sancal Art' chair, from £929, Pure Design Ltd.

WILLIAM'S TOP TIP...

..."If splashing out on that signature piece is not yet within reach, why not create your own? Re-upholstering allows you to make something new out of something old – explore with studding, piping, fabrics and fringing."



'Charles Rennie Mackintosh' kitchens, from £10,000, Pure Design Ltd.

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT WILL BE A KEY TREND FOR 2010?

"Chic and sophisticated is the look for the 2010 kitchen. A high-gloss, lacquered finish will be the most sought-after style, with curved units and touch features."

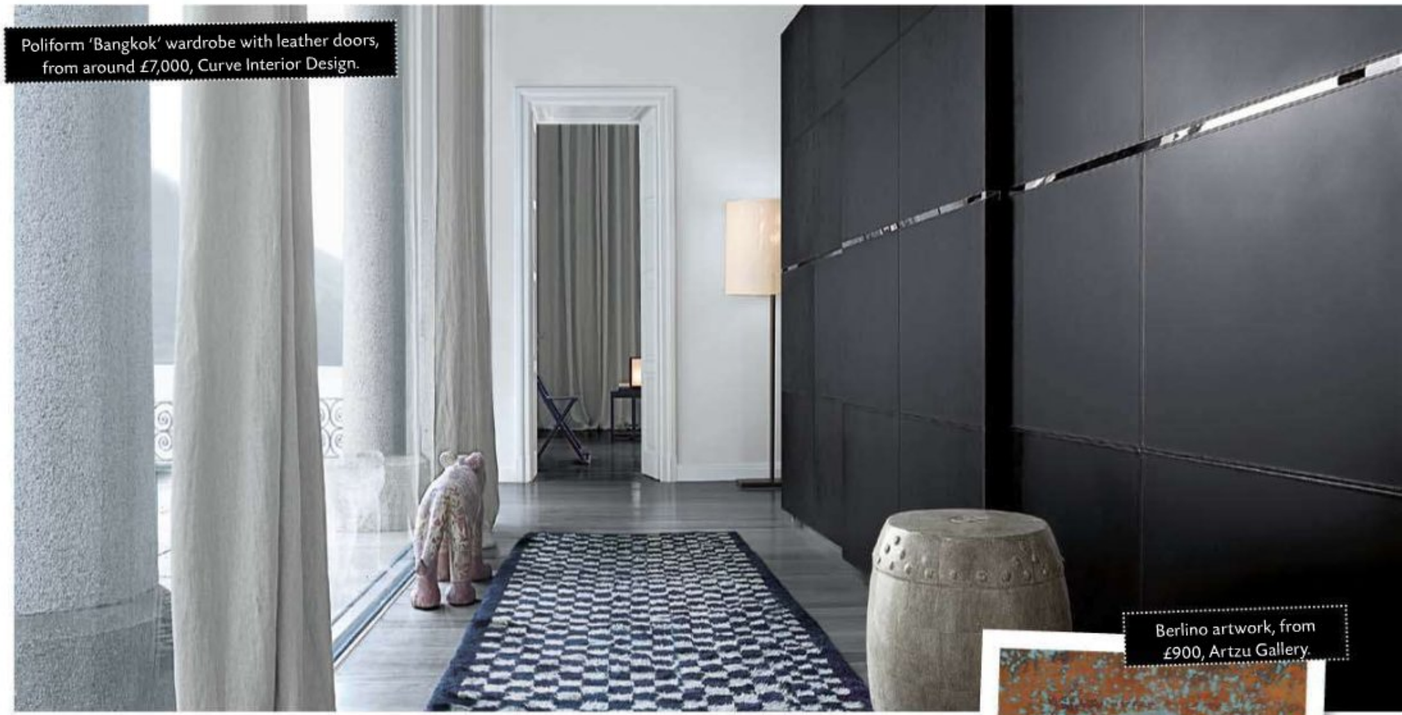
"In the bathroom the key word is 'luxury'. As with kitchens we'll see high-gloss finishes in whites, browns, reds and rosewood veneer. It's all about creating a sumptuous, luxurious feel."

"A major theme for 2010 is to concentrate on the whole house, rather than just individual rooms, so the high-gloss finish trend will also continue onto wardrobes and TV or library units for living and bedroom areas."

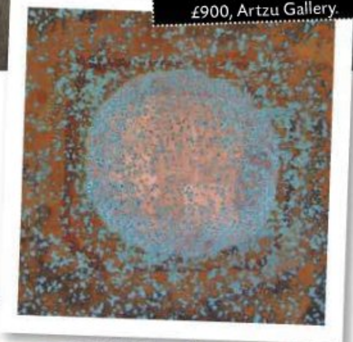
HOW WILL THESE TRENDS BE APPLIED TO THE MODERN HOME?

"It's going to be the furniture in people's houses that will really make the difference – continue to opt for classic signature pieces in 2010 and then accessorise around them."

Pure Design Ltd. Tel. 0113 218 6490 or visit: www.puredesignuk.com



Poliform 'Bangkok' wardrobe with leather doors, from around £7,000, Curve Interior Design.



Berlino artwork, from £900, Artzu Gallery.

GLAMOROUS OUTLOOK

Lucy Clarke, co-owner of Manchester-based Curve Interior Design, envisages a return to more luxurious finishes in the home, alongside rich colour and texture.

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT WILL BE A KEY TREND FOR 2010?

"A major trend for 2010 is 'a new decade'. We want to see that extra bit of luxury and glamour in homes which reflects the optimism we hope the country will be feeling as the year begins."

"Quality finishes such as leather, bronzed glass and marble will feature heavily, along with rich colour in olive green with walnut, highlighted with powdery pinks and blues."

"Look to layers of beautifully patterned throws and cushions and use artwork with the 'wow' factor to provide texture and depth."

HOW WILL THESE TRENDS BE APPLIED TO THE MODERN HOME?

"Specifically, we are looking at panelled padded walls to bedrooms, sliding tinted glass dividing open-plan areas, stitched leather on wardrobe doors and occasional furniture."

"The use of high end natural materials such as marble and quartzite in kitchens and bathrooms."

Curve Interior Design. Tel. 0161 237 9300 or visit: www.curveinteriordesign.co.uk

Poliform 'Soho' sofa and marble coffee table, POA, Curve Interior Design.

LUCY'S TOP TIP...

"Warm up walls with a combination of textured wallpaper and tonal paint. Add items such as a deep pile rug, glamorous cushions and opal glass lighting for a touch of luxury."

Missoni cushions from the 'Golden Age' collection, from £106, Curve Interior Design.

Concept for Living JANUARY :Layout 1 26/11/09 14:04 Page 1

SOFT SHAPES

Fred Tse, head buyer at contemporary home store Dwell, sees a new organic softness arriving in furniture form and lines, as well as this year's colour palette.

High-gloss bean-shaped table, £99 per pair, Dwell.

'Ankara' loveseat, £449, Dwell.

WHAT DO YOU PREDICT WILL BE A KEY TREND FOR 2010?

"A key trend for 2010 is curvy, softer lines on furniture. We will slowly move away from the stark crisp lines of previous seasons, seeing the rise of more organic shapes."

"Grey and teal are key colours for furniture in 2010. We have slowly seen it being introduced during the autumn/winter 2009 season and they will form important statement pieces in the forthcoming year."

"Compact storage will also feature heavily in the 2010 home."

HOW WILL THESE TRENDS BE APPLIED TO THE MODERN HOME?

"Think loveseats as opposed to sofas and furniture with added storage such as our storage ottoman."

"Greys and charcoals in accessories will be injected with a welcome splash of colour, such as oranges and blues, while patterns and artwork will be very linear in their application with faceted details and finishes."

Dwell. Tel. 0845 675 9090 or visit: www.dwell.co.uk

Storage ottoman with tray, £199, Dwell.

Firenze leather two seater sofa brown, £995, Dwell.

Staggered drawer unit, £199, Dwell.

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'EGO' walk in closet system by Guiseppe Bavuso for Poliform

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SPLASH OUT IN STYLE!

Looking for inspiration when it comes to that new bathroom? From baths, basins and showers to taps, tiles and towels – *CFL* takes a look at what's on offer this year.

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave and Paula Woods**

'Amalfi' bath, £2,499.99, and 'Amalfi 55' basin, £399.99, Victoria and Albert.

BATHING BEAUTIES

Create a relaxing haven with our tempting selection of beautiful baths and basins.

THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
'Brunel' cast iron bath with rivet detail, £2,183, Aston Matthews. 'Memento New Glory' basin in platinum, £675, Urban Interiors. 'La Mancha' bath, £2,219.50, Colourwash. Bespoke limestone 'Pietra Zen' bath, £9,000, and basins, £750 each, 'Grigio' Ash vanity, £900, 'Pietra Zen' limestone tiles, £138, and 'Ebano' marble mosaics £330, Pibamarmi Collection, Modo Cucine.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"The 'classic contemporary' look is still the most popular style but designs have evolved into something softer with hard angular lines giving way to rounded corners and curved edges."

"The softening of edges reflects customers' desire for more sensuality and warmth in the bathroom, especially since this is now the room most associated with relaxation and wellbeing."

"Super tactile materials, either man-made composites such as silky smooth Corian® or beautiful natural semi-polished stone dominates surfaces and sanitaryware."

Jane Gilchriest, Colourwash Bathrooms

"Modular furniture will play an important role in the bathroom. Bathroom furniture won't be about cramming as much storage into the space as possible, it will be about choosing beautiful, practical key pieces and utilising them in a stunning and effective way."

"The fashion for freestanding baths is one that just keeps going and going. The key is to choose one that'll make a stunning statement in the bathroom, as it'll give any room an incredibly indulgent feel. A freestanding bath provides the perfect excuse to turn your bathroom into that much craved after spa-style space."

Geoff Wells, Dolphin

"Demand for natural stone in bathrooms will continue to grow, but for customers wanting to keep a reign on their budget, porcelain replicas of materials such as marble are likely to be popular."

"Textures are increasingly important in the bathroom, mixing rough, smooth and polished finishes. While colours will continue to be muted and soothing in bathroom design."

Lisa Mather, Modo Cucine

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'Moda' basin £145.50, under basin cabinet £202.40 and side cabinet £253, 'Rio' Bath, £249.80, Twyford Bathrooms. 'Geo' teak bath, from £5,000, Taylors Etc. 'Hoesch' Waterlounge, POA, CP Hart. 'My Art Emotion' bath, from £6,732, 'Shape' surface-mounted basin and vanity unit, from £1,222, wall mounted side cabinet, from £306, Villeroy & Boch.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"A new generation of eco-friendly water-saving products – particularly shower heads that save water but still have enough power/water for a 'good' shower and will encourage take-up among UK consumers who currently lag behind their continental counterparts in terms of making water saving a priority".

"With the introduction of Grohe's green shower head, we're likely to see more products coming on to the market with 'accents' or touches of bright colour."

Jane Gilchriest, Colourwash Bathrooms

"The hot trend for 2010 is to create an experiential bathroom and at the forefront of this is a wetroom – the ultimate in bathroom opulence. The wetroom allows the showering area to blend in, creating a feeling of space and openness and truly making the most of the room available."

"Luxurious shower fittings and features such as body jets, shower columns and sophisticated showering controls are to be introduced to create a 'home-spa'."

Geoff Wells, Dolphin

"Overhead showers with powerful water jets are high on the wish list. The Dorn Barcht collection, for example, are real show stoppers."

Lisa Mather, Modo Cucine

STYLISH SHOWERING

Step in and unwind with the latest luxurious showers, enclosures and wetrooms.

OPPOSITE PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Wet room, £499, Bathstore. 'Axor' stark shower heaven, £4,303, Hansgrohe. 'Mercury Plus' wetroom, from £6,000 (incl. design and installation), Dolphin. **THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT** 'Calvari' rain bath, £6,800, Ideal Standard. 'Oz' shower tray, from £850, bidet and wc, £684 each, 'Dunia' basins, from £454 each, Aquaplus Solutions. 'Pharo' showerarc, £1,858, Hansgrohe. Bespoke shower enclosure, P.O.A, Simpsons.

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FINISHING TOUCHES...

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TOP ROW FROM LEFT 'Chessleton' taps, £742 per pair, Drummonds. 'Water Square' basin monobloc tap, £349, Crosswater. 'Xiara' three hole basin mixer, from £498, Samuel Heath. **MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT** 'Oblo' Oval Horizontal, radiator, £1,267.62, with optional shelf, £105.80, The Radiator Company. 'CN011A' towel rail, from £1,750,Vogue. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT** Stone dark offset mosaic tiles, £224.81 per sqm, Fired Earth. 'Fusion' tiles, from £3.41 each, Topps Tiles. 'White lady' mosaics, £149.95 per sqm, Original Style.

MIRRORS

STORAGE

FINISHING TOUCHES...

Add individual style with signature storage and accessories.

TOP ROW FROM LEFT 'La Belle' mirror, from £1,452, Villeroy & Boch. 'Sakito' bathroom mirror light (with switch and shaver socket), £396, All-up-and-on. 'Trainon' mirror, £695, Graham & Green. **MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT** 'Team 7' bathroom furniture, from £400, Wharfside. 'Mimo' bathroom furniture, from £834, washbasin, from £110, Taylors Etc. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT** Cotton cashmere towels: face cloth, £5, hand towel, £12, bath towel, £20, bath sheet, £28, jumbo sheet, £38, The White Company. 'Odyssey' towels in retro yellow and black: face cloth, £2.25, hand towel, £7, bath towel, £13, bath sheet, £20, Christy Towels. Egyptian cotton 'Pavillion' mocha towels, from £7, Peacock Blue.

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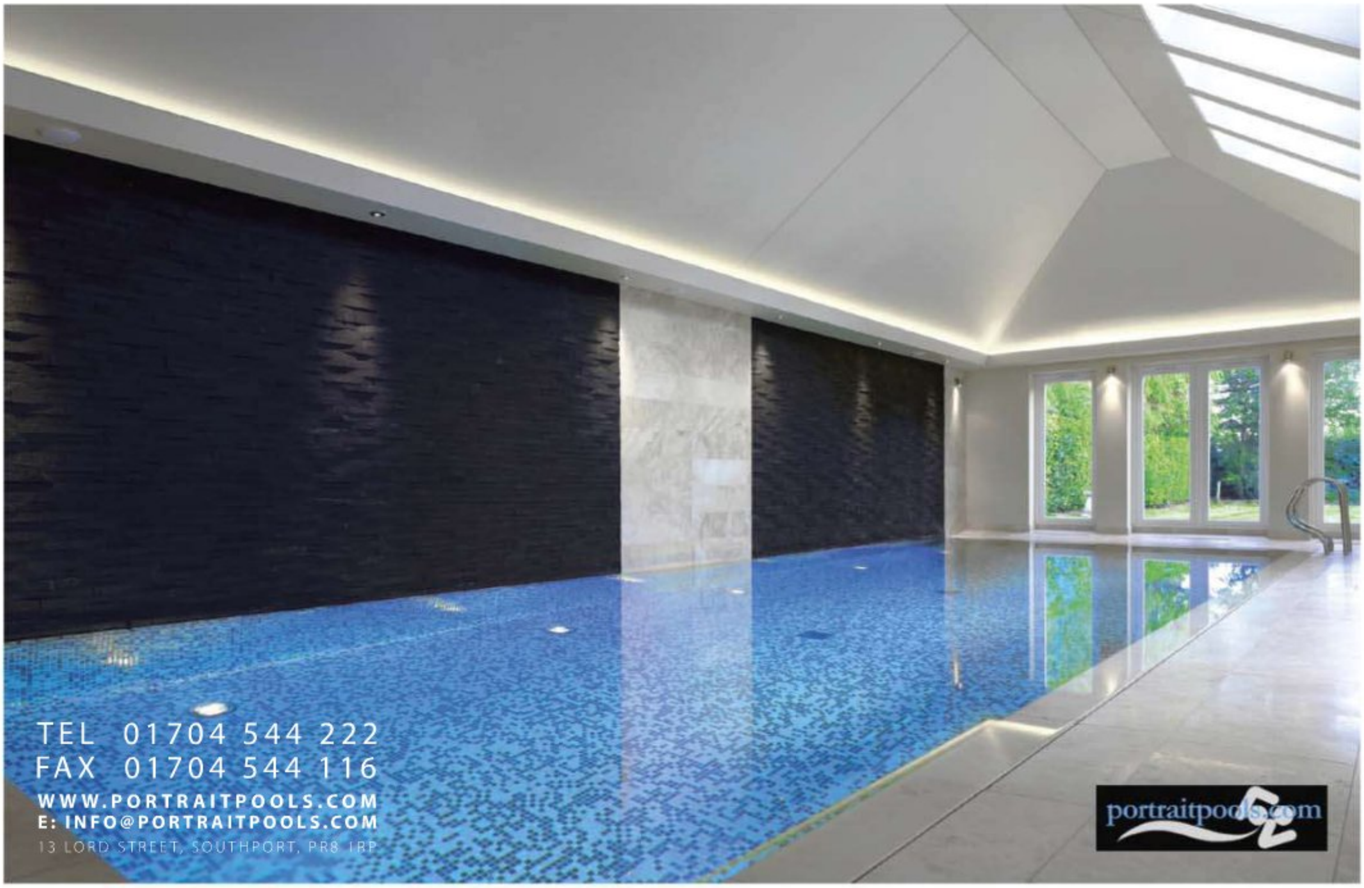

Words **Paula Woods**

A SECOND SHOWER ROOM

From empty attic to ensuite – wasted loft space has been transformed into a light and airy shower room.

For Sarah and Henry Langley moving into an 18th century farmhouse in a quiet Shropshire village may have been a dream come true, but the fact that the farmhouse only had one bathroom was definitely a nightmare! "Having two teenage daughters meant the family bathroom was always busy, so this was a problem that really needed solving," explains Sarah.

The solution proved to be a previously under-utilised, awkwardly shaped attic space, adjacent to the couple's new master bedroom. Although not large enough to be a bedroom, the area could easily accommodate a shower room and by rearranging access would make an ideal ensuite.

Despite its awkward shape and sloping ceiling, the couple's chosen builder could see the potential and boxed in a corner of the room to give Sarah and Henry a full height shower wall and, in turn, a large walk-in shower enclosure. The work, which included removing the aged and crumbling plasterwork also revealed an unexpected feature – original solid oak beams which were to prove the starting point for Sarah's colour scheme – a calming mix of neutral tones teamed with natural timbers and practical stone flooring.

The couple opted for fitted furniture, as storage was an important element of the design. "It's not a big room and we wanted to avoid clutter building up and spoiling the overall look," explains Sarah. Having spotted the countertop basin from Utopia in a local bathroom showroom, the couple considered this, along with the curved cabinet, to be the perfect focal point for the room. This in turn was teamed with matching storage units, decorative open shelving and practical solid surface worktops. Opting for a reflective high gloss finish also helps ensure the room remains light and airy at all times: a feature enhanced by the choice of stylish wooden shutters which, while providing privacy do not compromise on available daylight, making this the perfect bathing retreat. ■

ADDRESS BOOK:

The fitted furniture is from the Nadia range by Utopia and is finished in Walnut and Tuscan Gloss: Contoured unit with Ascena sit-on basin, £628.54, base open shelf units, from £66.40 each, tall single base unit with drawers, £319.54, Tusk solid surface worktops, from £143.87 per m, Amante basin mixer tap, £177.15, Matese push button toilet unit with soft close seat is £797.08, all Utopia.
Visit: www.utopiagroup.com or tel. 0800 288 8410.

The shower and enclosure are by Daryl.
Visit www.daryl-showers.co.uk or tel. 0151 606 5000.

The shutters are from Plantation Shutters.
Visit: www.plantation-shutters.co.uk or tel. 020 8871 9222.

'THIS LIGHT, BRIGHT ENSUITE REMAINS STREAMLINED AND CLUTTER-FREE THANKS TO FITTED FURNITURE'

GET IT RIGHT...

ADDING AN ENSUITE

1 MONEY MATTERS

An ensuite can be fitted in the smallest of spaces and if well planned and executed can increase the value of your property. Locate close to existing services – water and drainage – to help cut installation costs.

2 DOUBLE UP

If reclaiming an area of the bedroom ensure you maintain the correct proportion and scale of the room. Continue features onto new walls and source matching fixtures. Alternatively go open-plan with a freestanding bath or install a partition half-wall for modesty – but keep the toilet private!

3 KNOCK THROUGH

Opening up a small bedroom can be a good solution, but remember that homes are often valued on bedroom numbers. As a guide, removing a bedroom in a three-bedroom house could devalue your home, but converting a room in a four- or five-bedroom home can increase its value.

4 MOVE UP

Converting the loft into a bedroom with ensuite is often worth the investment. However, bear in mind that sloping ceilings and restricted head height can be limiting in terms of design and layout, so plan accordingly.

5 UTILISE SPACE

Ensuites tend to be small so consider compromising on bath size or replace with a walk-in enclosure or modern wet room. Check out space-saving corner or compact basins and toilets. Invest in good storage and look to underfloor heating to free up wall space.

PERFECT PERSPEX

Brightly coloured, decorative etched or simply transparent – *CFL* checks out the latest contemporary perpsex products from the best designers around. Clear winners when it comes to bringing designer-style to the home.

Stylist **Katie Cotgrave** Assisted by **Jenny Quinn**
Photographer **Eleri Griffiths** Assisted by **Dawn Brown**

CLEARLY COLOURFUL

Kartell 'La Boheme' vase stool, £82, Utility Design. Kartell 'T' side table, £123, Utility Design. Gypsy pendant chandelier, £67.99, Hiccup Gifts. Kartell transparent table lamp, £55, Heal's. 'Gel Gem' storage boxes, £15 each, Store.

For stockist details see page 126

TRULY TRANSPARENT

Acrylic wine rack, £20, cotton bud holders, £9 each, tissue holder, £14, accessory organiser by Umbra, £29, Store. 'Bourgie' clear perspex lamp, £49.95, Daisy West. Love bird tealight holder, £8.95, Dotcomgiftshop.

For stockist details see page 126

DECORATIVE DESIGNS

'Baroque' chair, £650, Juliette's Interiors. 'Ghost' vase, £40, Ezstyle. 'Ghost' candelabra, £28, Mode Twentyone.

For stockist details see page 126

LIFE
COLLECTION

Designed for LIFE

Every aquarium in the biOrb range is truly innovative not only in style and construction but also in the discreet technology featured. The new LIFE collection is no exception to this, incredibly stylish and tactile, the unique shape sets it apart from anything else available.

- *Automatic Intelligent Light with long life LED's and 24hr light cycle including blue moonlight.*
- *Low maintenance with multi-stage filtration, keeping the water crystal clear and healthy.*
- *Safe low voltage, robust acrylic design that's 10 x stronger and clearer than glass.*
- *Available in three sizes and three striking colours; Chilli Red, Ice White or Piano Black.*

biOrb®

visit www.reef-one.com for more details

KITCHENS

THE PERFECT RANGE COOKER

Whether traditional or modern the iconic range cooker is a definite kitchen must-have, so why not check out our top tips before buying.

1 The main difference between a traditional range (such as Aga) and a modern range is that whereas the fuel supply is simply turned on when required on a modern range, the traditional range constantly radiates heat and in some cases can also power your heating system. Traditional, oil and solid fuel ranges often require professional installation, gas and dual fuel ranges must be installed by a 'Gas Safe' fitter and electric models require a separate 30-amp cooking circuit.

2 The traditional range cooks by using indirect radiant heat, rather than direct heat emitted by a gas flame or electric element, as on a modern appliance. Temperature is therefore not as easy to control and requires different cooking techniques to a modern conventional range.

3 The smallest range will fit a conventional 60cm gap but most range cookers measure from 90cm upwards to a mighty 180cm, so tend to suit larger rooms. Check all measurements and remember that manufacturers often recommend a specified gap between the range and adjacent units. You also need to ensure doors can open fully (often more than 90 degrees to allow removal of fittings).

4 Ranges can be powered using solid fuel, wood, oil, natural gas, propane gas (LPG) or electricity. Consider the options both in terms of running costs and ease of use. Bear in mind that storage space will be needed for wood, coal, LPG or oil.

5 Hobs can have up to eight burners or plates. Look out for features such as large rapid burners with wok supports, griddle plates, elongated fish burners, lavastone barbecues and Teppan yaki cooking plates. Alternatively check out the latest instantly responsive electric induction hobs.

6 Range cookers feature two or more ovens. Check efficiency ratings on all ovens as individual ovens can differ. Electronic programmers are a must for busy lifestyles as are multi-functional ovens. Look out for pre-heat features, defrost and low-heat settings.

7 Bear in mind that traditional solid fuel and oil ranges do not have a grill. Many ranges require the door to be open when grilling, but new closed-door grills will prove a safer option. Look out for advanced grills that heat up in seconds and can often be used like a rotisserie, or gas vitro-grills that ensure an even heat.

8 In terms of cleaning, consider labour-free pyrolytic ovens, or self-cleaning catalytic liners, easy-clean non-porous enamel coatings and stay-clean detachable metal liners. Ensure gas burners have removable supports and griddles. Solid plate electrical hobs should prove easy to clean but spills on ceramic or halogen hobs ideally require immediate attention.

OPPOSITE 101cm Chatelaine Pro multi-function range cooker (dual fuel or electric), from £5,295, Godin. **ABOVE FROM LEFT TO RIGHT** 110cm 'Sterling' range cooker (dual fuel, gas or electric), £1599.99, Stoves. 100cm Nina Campbell 'Deauville Dynasty' range cooker (dual fuel or electric), from £4,599, Britannia. 110cm electric induction range cooker, from £2,165, Rangemaster. **TOP** 98cm central heating range cooker (oil-fired or gas, runs up to 24 radiators), from £5,995, Redfyre.

Daisy...... Daisy......

elephant designer beanbags

Oversized and generously filled, Elephant beanbags definitely live up to their name and are a cost-effective way of injecting funky colour and designer prints into kids' bedrooms, family rooms, games rooms and teenage dens. Go for a single splash or group two or three together for a paint-box effect – Elephants look even better in herds! These versatile seating solutions are great for parties and sleepovers, providing soft support for all the family in durable, wipe-clean fabrics. Better yet, the Jumbos weigh in at a mighty 140cm x 180cm.

Visit www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk to view our full range, request colour swatches and order. Or call 01386 423760

www.elephantbeanbags.co.uk

elephant™

TEN OF THE **BEST**

VASES

Accessorise your home in style and be bold with these statement vases.

TOP ROW FROM LEFT LSA 'Orietta' vase, £44, John Lewis. Turquoise glass vase, £139, BoConcept. 'Tu' lustre vase, £11.99, Sainsbury's. **MIDDLE ROW FROM LEFT** 'Guzzini' décor vase, £99, Amaroni. Yellow rubber vase, £20, Bodie and Fou. 'Mali' vase, £12.99, Deroma. 'Seedhead' vase, £22.50, Berry Red. **BOTTOM ROW FROM LEFT** 'Fern' vase, £15, Breeze. 'Concetta' curved vase, £99, Habitat. 'Nature' oval vase, £25, Marks & Spencer.

For stockist details see page 126

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

apadana

Vola FS3 freestanding shower.
Purist form. Absolute function.

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Apadana understands the need to transcend mere fashions, style and taste. By reducing the bathroom to its essentials, we create personalised spaces that share common qualities; understated aesthetics, refined materials and pure function.

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01565 632282

www.apadana.eu

LOUISE GARDINER
E loulougardiner@hotmail.com
www.lougardiner.co.uk
Calling herself 'a modern embroideress', Louise Gardiner creates weird and wonderful creatures by combining her drawing abilities with her sewing machine skills. Her work bravely crosses the boundaries between art, illustration and craft – and *CFL* loves it!

NORTHERN GREATS

The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair (GNCCF) was back and better than ever last October in Manchester's trendy Spinningfields. But don't worry if you missed it, because the *CFL* team were there to seek out the hottest new talent. Here are our favourite finds. Words **Jennie Musgrove**

KERRY O'CONNOR
E kloc.design@virgin.net
www.kerryoconnor.co.uk
Kerry O'Connor uses silver and porcelain to create elegant products for the dining table and interior. *CFL* loves the chic and sophisticated shapes of her work.

CONGRATULATIONS... TO REBECCA APPLEBY, WHO WON THE 'BEST NEW MAKER' AWARD, CHOSEN BY NONE OTHER THAN THE *CFL* TEAM!

NORTHERN
DESIGNER MAKERS

Showcasing the best new and established creative talents, the four-day fair attracted crowds of design-savvy northerners who left laden with one-off finds and unique hand-made pieces.

EMILIE TAYLOR CERAMICS

E emilie@emilietaylor.co.uk
www.emilietaylor.co.uk

Traditionally shaped ceramics and 1950s tower blocks are rarely seen in the same context, but the work of Emilie Taylor brings the two together in a fascinating way. Emilie describes the vessels she creates as 'souvenirs of a very British relationship with post-war architecture.'

HOLLIE BROWN

E studio@holliebrown.co.uk
www.holliebrown.co.uk

Hollie Brown makes decorative hand-embellished art prints which are finished by hand with embroidery, papers and fabrics. Pretty, quirky and beautifully composed, the artworks are often brought to life by the characters and objects they depict.

JENNY BLAND

E bland.jenny@ymail.com
www.jennybland.co.uk
Light fittings come in all shapes and sizes, but Jenny Bland's beautiful handcrafted pendant lights really captured *CFL*'s imagination. Spun from fine threads, these lamps are an innovation in textiles.

ELAINE HUGHES

E elaine@ohgollygosh.co.uk
www.ohgollygosh.co.uk
Elaine Hughes makes imaginary scenes by combining vintage materials, fabrics and her drawing skills. Her one-off collages use humour and language to tell a story, and are available as framed pieces, broaches, or greetings cards.

BEVERLEY GEE

E bgceramics@yahoo.co.uk
www.beverleygee.com
Beverley Gee makes hand-thrown decorative porcelain pieces with simple designs and subtle decoration. She uses a fluid aqua glaze which forms light-catching glassy droplets to complement the crisp white porcelain.

SARAH MALONE

E sarah@sarahmalone.co.uk
www.sarahmalone.co.uk
Since *CFL* presented Sarah Malone with the 'Best New Maker' Award at last year's fair, she has gone from strength to strength. Her new range of delightful ceramic cups, bottles, bowls and vases went down a treat at this year's GNCCF – long may her success continue!

RUTH GREEN

E ruthgreendesign@hotmail.com
www.worldoffox.com/ruthgreendesign/
Ruth Green produces hand-made screen prints and etchings featuring simple, stylised designs. Inspired by everything from vintage ceramics to beach pebbles, Ruth's work is fun, friendly and bursting with colour.

OLIVE & BROWN (KATY BROWN)

E oliveandbrown@gmail.com
www.oliveandbrown.com
Katy Brown, founder of Olive & Brown, creates beautiful embroideries inspired by fashion, nature and her hometown Manchester. Her designs feature on everything from textiles and interior accessories to brooches, clothing and wallpaper.

INGRID WAGNER RUG & ART CREATION
E info@ingridwagner.com
www.ingridwagner.com
Ingrid Wagner makes textiles and artwork inspired by the colourful countries she has travelled to. A contemporary approach to knitting ensures her rugs are just as unique as she is!

OLIVIA LOWE
E mail@olivialowe.co.uk
www.olivialowe.co.uk
Striking, stylish and highly original, Olivia Lowe's sculptural silver vases tread the boundary between functional silver and art. Olivia's work explores the relationship between natural objects such as flowers and the contrasting qualities of silver.

TERESA GREEN
E info@teresagreen.co.uk
www.teresagreen.co.uk
Teresa Cole founded Teresa Green ten years ago and produces hand-printed fabrics from a studio in Leicestershire. The fabrics are then turned into everything from aprons and cushions to tea towels and deckchairs.

VIRGINIA GRAHAM
E mail@virginiagraham.co.uk
www.virginiagraham.co.uk
From cups and jugs to teapots and coasters, Virginia Graham's stone-ware products are innovative interpretations of traditional objects. Using nostalgic form and imagery, Virginia makes handmade pieces featuring intricate surface decoration.

DAVID PASCOE
E info@oceanglass.co.uk
www.david-pascoe.com
Glass artist David Pascoe creates kiln-formed glass objects for the home. Bright, quirky and fun, his unique pieces would brighten any dining or coffee table.

ALAN ARDIFF
E alanardiff@eircom.net
www.alanardiff.com
Alan Ardiff makes miniature kinetic jewellery which is both delightfully sweet and wonderfully stylish. *CFL* adores the tiny creatures which adorn Alan's work – especially when they are as cute as these birds!

DESIGNER MAKERS FROM FURTHER AFIELD

Exhibitors travelled from far and wide to show off their wares at the Manchester fair – here is our pick of designer makers from further afield to look out for.

RACHEL GORNALL

E rachel@rachelgornall.co.uk
www.rachelgornall.co.uk

Rachel Gornall celebrates colour with her vibrant hand-dyed and stitched textiles. Delicately cut patterns are combined with luscious hues to create beautiful wall panels and framed textile artworks.

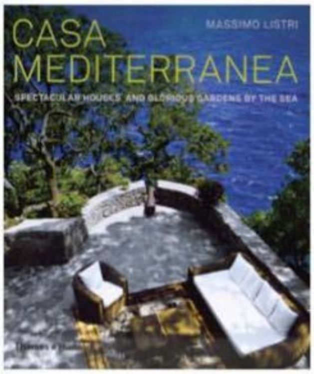
LINDSEY MANN

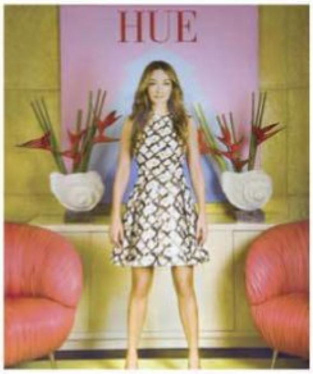
E info@lindseymann.co.uk
www.lindseymann.co.uk

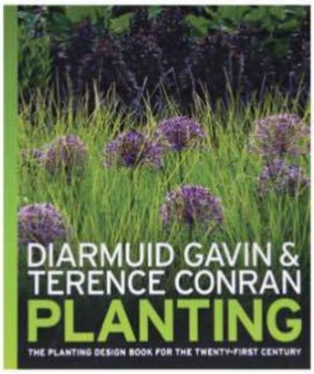
Based on the theme of collecting memories, Lindsey Mann's jewellery and artwork is playful, quirky and super-cute. With references to board games, tin toys and garden machinery, her work is filled with nostalgia but at the same time remains contemporary.

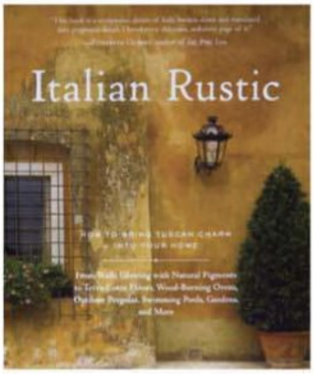
COFFEE TABLE

The New Year is upon us and what better place to find inspiration for 2010 than in one of the fabulous books we have selected for this month's Coffee Table review?









Casa Mediterranea

BY MASSIMO LISTRI
Published by Thames & Hudson
Available now
Hardback. Price £27.50
www.thamesandhudson.com

Thanks to its sun-drenched landscape, rich history and enticing traditions, the Mediterranean continues to inspire beautiful design, and *Casa Meditteranea* showcases a selection of some of the most stunning homes in the region. Renowned architecture photographer Massimo Listri has captured an array of stimulating images; from sweeping panoramas of the houses in their glorious settings, to close-ups of rooms and design details.

Each of the 39 homes featured has its own individual merits, but the highlights of the book are the properties of such iconic people as Dolce & Gabbana, Alberta Ferretti and Salvador Dalí. Ferreti's holiday home in Cattolica reveals the designer's truly elegant taste, while Dali's transformed fisherman's cottage in Port Lligat, Spain, was once used as a weird and wonderful retreat by the artist and his wife during the summer.

Hue

BY KELLY WEARSTLER
Published by AMMO books
Available 20 Dec 2009
Hardback. Price £29.95
www.ammobooks.com

Kelly Wearstler's inimitable style shines through in her latest design book, *Hue*.

The introduction comprises a short Q and A with the designer to set the scene, after which the book gets into full swing with five chapters featuring full-page photography of Kelly's most recent projects. As its title suggests, *Hue* is a celebration of colour and the chapters are made distinct by the tones included in them – from camellia, wisteria and vermillion to jonquil, citrine and dahlia. Usefully, at the start of every chapter the colours have been written in their correct shade, for anyone who might be unfamiliar with the more unusual shades.

Offering a comprehensive tour of Kelly's one-off schemes for hotels, restaurants and mansions, *Hue* is ideal for anyone seeking inspiration for a project or simply as a reference to the designer's bold, daring style.

Planting

BY DIARMUID GAVIN & TERENCE CONRAN
Published by Octopus
Available now
Hardback. Price £40
www.octopusbooks.co.uk

We know it's only January but it's never too early to get a head-start on your gardening plans for the year – and we've found the perfect book for inspiration. Following their hugely successful *Outdoors*, Diarmuid Gavin and Terence Conran have joined forces once again to create *Planting*, the ultimate guide to designing a planting scheme for a garden. The book begins with introductions by both design icons, as well as an insightful conversation between the two. What follows is a complete guide to plants: where they come from; what grows naturally in which conditions, and which plants complement each other in a scheme.

An exploration of nature's vast palette of plants and how they are used in garden around the world, this impressively hefty book is sure to become a 21st century classic and is packed with advice on how to achieve garden you want, from how to attract wildlife to creating an edible kitchen garden.

Italian Rustic

BY ELIZABETH HELMAN MINCHILI
Published by Artisan Books
Available now 25 January 2010
Hardback. Price £30
www.artisanbooks.com

From walls glowing with natural pigments and terracotta floors, to woodburning ovens and wonderful outdoor spaces, *Italian Rustic* takes you on a journey through the best that is rural Italy. Specifically covering Tuscan and Umbrian style, this beautifully photographed book explores the timeless appeal of the traditional farmhouse and addresses how to re-create the look within any home.

Answering such questions as 'how Italian plaster walls get their shimmer', and 'how to go about constructing a Tuscan-style fireplace' this user-friendly bible to *Italian Rustic* style aims to help those looking to create an authentic look in the form of both decorative touches and more adventurous building projects.

Elizabeth Helman Minchili, along with her Italian architect husband, Domenico Minchili examines every aspect of the home, from floors, doors and fireplaces to gardens, kitchens and bathrooms. So if you are looking to capture the spirit of Italy, this stunning hardback should prove an endless source of guidance and inspiration.

10% OFF AT LAGO

LAGO COMES TO REDBRICK MILL

To celebrate the opening of their new store, LAGO is offering *Concept For Living* readers 10% off all in-store purchases.

Step inside LAGO the latest concept store at Rebrick Mill, Leeds, and you will discover everything you need to furnish your home – be it kitchen, bathroom, living or bedroom.

The LAGO way is creative, colourful and very versatile offering endless opportunities to customise your home. Opt to invent your own unique design or take advantage of the helpful free in-house design service. And to help you on your way to achieving a brand new look, LAGO is offering *Concept For Living* readers 10% off all purchases.

To claim your discount, simply take along an original of this page to the store and receive 10% off all purchases.

Visit: www.leeds.lagodesign.eu or tel. 01924 453529.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and prices are subject to change. Photocopies of the magazine will not be accepted in store.

Air Bed with the eco leather headboard, £1,735 and shelves, £2,858, N.O.W. wardrobe, £2,614.

Kitchen units, £9,699, 'Air' table, £1,699, breakfast bar, £1,119, and lilac shelving system, £999, 'Steps' chairs and stools, £299 each.

Compiled by Jennie Musgrove

DISCOVERY **SPACE**

Discovery Space has gone all glamorous this month as we take a look at Bertoia's classic Diamond Chair, review the trendiest book of 2010 and chat with design legend, Tricia Guild OBE.

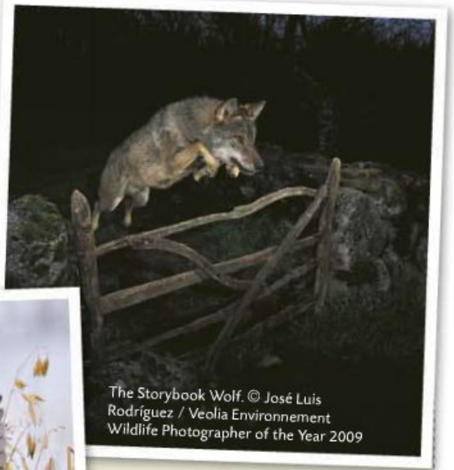
For stockists see page 126.

WEBSPACE
www.isak.co.uk

Here at *CFL* we've fallen in love with isak.co.uk, the weird and wonderful website of design company Isak. The brand creates gifts and co-ordinated home accessories and was founded by Sandra Isaksson, whose wonderful designs and illustrations feature on everything from kitchenware and wallpaper to clothing and stationary. Hailing originally from Sweden, Sandra's style is unmistakably Scandinavian, with playful characters and splashes of colour on every product.

The website's image gallery holds a collection of pictures, providing, in the words of the website, 'a little inspiration for a beautiful happy life.' There are also quirky stories to download and three blogs to follow – so whether you've got five minutes or the whole day, you won't be disappointed.

Clash of the Yellowhammers. © Fergus Gill / Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009



The Storybook Wolf. © José Luis Rodríguez / Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2009

IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE IN LONDON
The Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

If you're planning a trip to England's capital in the new year, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is a must-see. Featuring 95 winning and commended images from the 2009 competition, the exhibition is one of the most prestigious of its kind in the world. There were more than 43,000 entries from 94 countries in last year's competition.

Beautiful and evocative, each image captures a moment in time and clearly demonstrates not only the photographer's technical skill but also their patience and – surely – more than a sprinkling of luck. From a dramatic photograph of a wolf jumping over a gate which Spanish photographer Jose Luis Rodriguez spent years planning, to a fight between two Yellowhammer birds by Scottish photographer Fergus Gill, the images on display were taken at the right place and the right time and are a striking reminder of the infinite detail and power of nature.

Also available is a wide range of merchandise, including brilliantly reproduced postcards and prints on demand as well as colourful mugs and jigsaws.

The Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition is on at the Natural History Museum, London, until 11th April 2010, in conjunction with BBC Wildlife Magazine. Opening times are 10am 5.50pm daily, Monday to Sunday. Last admission 5pm. Tickets cost £9 for adults, £4.50 for children and senior adults.

INVESTMENT BUY
Knoll Bertoia Diamond Chair, £678, Utility Design
www.utilitydesign.co.uk

DESIGN CLASSIC
Knoll Bertoia Diamond Chair

Italian designer and furniture maker Harry Bertoia created the Diamond Chair for Knoll in the 1950s. The chair is a mesh of contradictions: unusual yet beautiful, strong yet delicate and an immediate success despite being made almost entirely by hand. With the Diamond Chair, Bertoia made an icon of 20th century design and introduced a new material, industrial wire mesh, to the world of furniture design.

GET THE LOOK
Eiffel mesh chair, £95, Dwell
www.dwell.co.uk

ON OUR RADAR
Tricia Guild OBE

Tricia Guild OBE founded Designers Guild in 1970 and the company's first collection was a range of re-coloured Indian hand-blocked printed textiles. Two years later, Tricia opened her first store on Kings Road, London, showcasing her first collection of fabric as well as ceramics and furniture.

Forty years on, Designers Guild is recognised internationally as a leading force in design, with fabrics, wallcoverings, upholstery and bed and bath collections throughout Europe and worldwide.

As well as leading the company's design studio, Tricia has also written 14 inspirational books on the subject of colour and design.

Jennie Musgrove talks to Tricia about her influences, secrets and ambitions.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON AT THE MOMENT?
Our Autumn 2010 collections and also we are getting ready to launch Spring 2010 at Maison et Objet in Paris this month.

HOW IS YOUR WORK INFLUENCED BY WHERE YOU LIVE?
It is influenced by how I live and the way that I choose to live – I live in colour and pattern and my work reflects that.

WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU SAW THAT REALLY INSPIRED YOU?
I am always inspired by the world around me, whether it be nature and flowers, travel, good design or a piece of art. Our new spring collection was inspired by the Brighton Pavilion and it is that heady mix of Regency exuberance and the exotic that is so infused into its design, which has influenced the spirit of the collection and also the Neue Museum by David Chipperfield in Berlin.

WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?
My family... and a great cappuccino!

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?
To visit my daughter and granddaughter in New York and take them to the opera or ballet.

IF YOU COULD MEET ANYONE IN THE WORLD, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE?
It would have been Matisse.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING YOU'VE EVER DONE?
Taken a risk.

WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU'VE EVER READ?
A Suitable Boy by Vikran Seth.

WHICH LIVING PERSON DO YOU MOST ADMIRE, AND WHY?
I. M. Pei for his incredible vision; his Louvre pyramid was an inspiraton.

WHO WOULD YOU INVITE TO YOUR DREAM DINNER PARTY?
Coco Chanel, Fridha Kahlo, Luis Barragan and Ghandi.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON LIFE HAS TAUGHT YOU?
Believe in yourself and never give up. There was a time when I would have given up if I had listened to other people's advice.

TELL US A SECRET
I would hope that it isn't such a secret anymore, but colour and pattern are not scary!

TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?
Contemporary.

DOGS OR CATS?
I have one of each so I couldn't choose!

AUTUMN OR SPRING?
Spring.

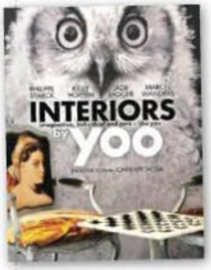
CITY OR COUNTRYSIDE?
I wouldn't be able to choose as I love both. The city for its vibrancy and energy and the country for its peace, quiet and vitality.

WWW.DESIGNERSGUILD.COM

ABOVE Portier cushion, £80. Portier rug, £695.

BOOKMARK
Interiors By YOO

By Philippe Starck, Kelly Hoppen, Jade Jagger and Marcel Wanders. Introduction by John Hitchcox
Review by Steven Grattan



Five of the world's most celebrated designers have been gathered together to showcase work at the forefront of innovation in the way we live today.

With 192 pages featuring 200 colour illustrations, *Interiors By Yoo* is an inspirational guide to finding your personal style with advice on interior design and creating a bespoke living space.

With chapters range from minimal, techno, urban and country, to name but a few, this inspiring read provides an interesting view and contrast into the world of design. Also included are interviews with all the contributing designers, an introduction by John Hitchcock, one of Europe's most innovative design-based property developers, and a superb cultural chapter by Philippe Starck, one of the most celebrated designers in the world today.

Interiors By Yoo is a great book for the budding design fan as it offers an exploration into how you feel and think about your home, as well as how to identify what you like and how to achieve a designer space that works for you!

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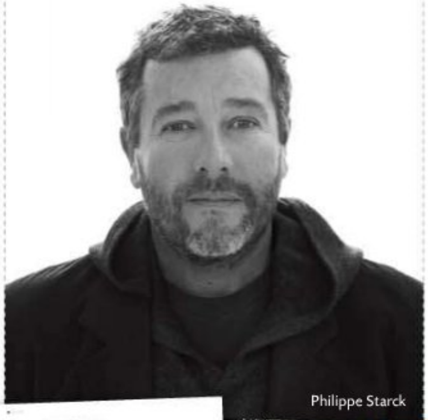

Philippe Starck

WINNER OF *CFL*'S PRESTIGIOUS 'BEST NEW MAKER' AWARD

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

Rebecca Appleby is this year's chosen winner of *Concept For Living's* annual designer maker award, thanks to her innovative ceramic designs.

These include pieces such as her eye-catching ceramic vessels that explore Rebecca's key interest in surface, shape and form. Having been presented with her award at the Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair, Rebecca is now looking forward to the challenges a new year brings.

Tell us about your background

I studied at the Batley school of Art and Design in West Yorkshire and from there went on to the Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland. On completion of my degree I have worked in many areas of the art and design industry – including setting up a gallery and running a small design business in Yorkshire with my sister. For the last few years I have worked in education as a part time ceramic technician and lecturer.

"BEING A VISUAL PERSON I SEE THINGS MOST DAYS THAT INSPIRE ME IN SOME WAY OR ANOTHER, FROM THE PATTERN INSIDE AN ENVELOPE TO AN INTERESTING ROAD SURFACE"

What does your typical day entail?

I get up early, drink lots of strong coffee and lecture at college. Once I have finished my day job I start my own work, I tend to finish very late and then get up and do it all over again!

What inspires you?

I am inspired by many things. Being a visual person I see things most days that inspire me in some way or another, from the pattern inside an envelope to an interesting road surface. At present I am inspired by the concept of structure, order and expression found in structural package design. I am currently exploring a range of intrinsic formal and surface qualities found in traditional and contemporary packaging, and translating my designs into ceramic vessels.

Can you describe your work and the processes that you use?

All the forms are hand built from sheets of clay. I use multi-layer slips, under-glaze, on-glaze, lustre and ceramic decals on the ceramic surface.

Who are your design heroes?
Alongside my friend and mentor Warren Dunn and my exceptionally talented and successful artist husband Norrie Harman, I have to say that the ceramicist Gordon Baldwin, painters Robert Raucenberg and Cy Twombley and the graphic design group 'Neasdon Control Centre' are amongst my favourites.

What are you working on at the moment?
In addition to making sculptural ceramic vessels, I am currently designing a range of products for a bathroom suite. Included are some incredibly cool and funky toilets with my own surface design! Watch this space!

How do you feel about winning the award?
I am pleased and honoured to win this award. Although art and design has been a big part of my life for many years it is really only in the last year that I have launched my professional career as a practising designer. I really could not have hoped for the fantastic response that I have received. My first attempt at submitting work for a major reputable fair saw me being selected for Ceramic Art London at the Royal College of Art. I then exhibited at Origin, London and The Great Northern Contemporary Art Fair, Manchester all within 8 months of each other. I can't wait to see what next year brings!

What is your most treasured posession?
I have a few small but very treasured possessions. We had a house fire a couple of years ago and we lost everything. My little box of various letters and trinkets that I had collected over the years, and my sketchbooks were the only things that I saved. They still smell a bit smokey but they survived nevertheless, this was really a major turning point in helping me to decide to launch my career as a practising maker.

"I AM PLEASED AND HONOURED TO WIN THIS AWARD"

How do you relax?
I don't!

Where is your favourite destination?
Has to be Paris, always Paris!

What is your guilty pleasure?
Coffee! And the occasional biscuit or two!

Do you have a motto?
Clay is the way!

Describe yourself in five words
Eclectic, positive, determined, busy, passionate.

What are your current projects?
Developing a range of work from larger sculptural vessels to functional designer ware including tableware and toilets!

Contact Information:
Tel. 07877681837
Visit: www.rebeccaappleby.com

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WE LOVE SHOPPING IN...

LIVERPOOL

Take a trip down Bold Street and discover quirky vintage shops. Visit the newly built Liverpool One for everything you could wish for in fashion and products for the home. Stroll over to the Albert Dock for galleries, boutique shops and craft shops or check out the Cavern Quarter where you will find top quirky designer names and all things Beatles. More than just Capital Of Culture 2008, Liverpool is also the place to visit for would-be shopaholics.

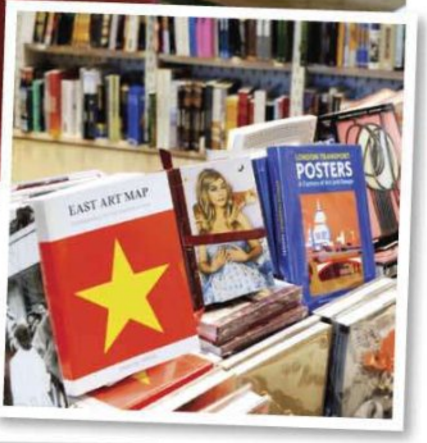
Looking for classic wallpapers and fabrics from some of the best leading designers? Visit Trends in Crosby, just outside the city centre. 72 Liverpool Road, Crosby, Liverpool, L23 5SJ. Tel. 0151 924 4200, visit: www.trendsuk.com.

RETRO LOVE DELUXE

Based in south Liverpool, the birthplace of the Beatles, Retro Love Deluxe is a quirky retro shop that stocks quality vintage items in classic modern design styles. Items include 50s kitch items and leading designer pieces such as the classic 'Panton' chair by Verner Panton.
260 SMITHDOWN ROAD, LIVERPOOL, L15 5AH. TEL. 0151 733 3355, VISIT: WWW.RETROLOVEDELUXE.CO.UK.

THE TATE SHOP

The Tate shop, in Albert Dock, offers shoppers a bright and welcoming environment. With its stunning waterfront setting visitors are able to purchase a range of products, from contemporary art and prints to postcards, stationary and special gifts. Many items are exclusive to The Tate Gallery.
ALBERT DOCK, LIVERPOOL, MERSEYSIDE, LL3 4BB. TEL. 0151 702 7575, VISIT: WWW.TATE.ORG.UK.



Showcasing some of the best eco-furniture around, check out Zen on Bold Street for products that are guaranteed to make a statement. 116 and 122 Bold Street, Liverpool, L1 4JA. **Tel. 0151 707 9005, visit: www.zenfurniture.co.uk.**

BOCONCEPT

Liverpool proudly boasts the first store BoConcept in the North West. Situated in the RIBA award-winning Unity building, BoConcept stocks contemporary designer furniture and lifestyle products for the home. And their quality cutting-edge designs will ensure you never leave empty handed.
UNITY BUILDING, 22-24 CHAPEL STREET, LIVERPOOL, L3 9AG. TEL. 0845 612 6600, VISIT: WWW.BOCONCEPT.CO.UK.

UTILITY DESIGN

A trip to Liverpool would not be the same without checking out the latest stylish buys from Utility Design. Utility has two stores on Bold Street. Store 60 offers the best in contemporary furniture, lighting and home accessories – check out designers such as Alessi, Kartell and Tom Dixon. Store 86 offers a vibrant range of greeting cards, jewellery, watches and great gift items.
60 AND 86 BOLD STREET, LIVERPOOL, L1 4EA & L1 4HY. TEL. 0151 707 9919, VISIT: WWW.UTILITYDESIGN.CO.UK.

CATH KIDSTON

Set back from Liverpool One's main shopping street, Cath Kidston's chic vintage shop is located on School Lane. Find the distinctive prints and fabrics we all know and love set amongst a vibrant range of beautiful furniture and home accessories ideas. Whether you're looking for inspiration for the home or great gift ideas it's a store you'll just keep popping back for more.
CROMPTON HOUSE, 18 SCHOOL LANE, LIVERPOOL, L1 3BT. TEL. 0151 709 2747, VISIT: WWW.CATHKIDSTON.COM.

At The End Of The Day

A VIBRANT IMAGINATION

Since selling his design company 10 years ago, artist Bernard O'Dwyer has been busy producing striking canvasses that create calm in a hectic world. Jennie Musgrove visited him to find out about his design background, influences and aims.

Home Comforts

Macclesfield-based artist Bernard O'Dwyer creates beautiful paintings using vibrant colours, interesting compositions and a healthy dose of imagination. Working from a small studio in the house he shares with his wife, Jacqueline, Bernard is inspired by everything from contemporary architecture to family holidays. His artistic aim is to create something calming, an antidote to today's hectic lifestyle. "What I want to do in a nutshell," he says, "is create paintings that people find relaxing. People have very busy lives, they work very hard and are often stressed with work, the fear of debt and the hassle of getting to and from work. So when they come home after a busy day, I want my paintings to calm them down. They might be colourful, but I want them to be calm."

Bernard started his career in 1962 as an apprentice at a Manchester design studio. The environment was tough and the training intense, but the experience gave Bernard skills that he continues to use today. "When I started off as a young lad I used to stand next to the designers, cleaning pots and running errands," he recalls. "For three months I wasn't allowed to design anything. And when I started redrawing designs, I had to watch as a week's work was torn up in front of me while my boss explained what was wrong with it. After 18 months I was allowed to do my first original design – by that point I was almost ready to leave! But I realised that all the training had given me something I wasn't aware of. An understanding of layout, composition, balance and lighting."

Armed with these newfound talents, Bernard set up his own firm, Gemini Design. After an unsuccessful business trip to Germany ("I did 2000 miles of travelling and didn't sell a thing!"), he was disheartened, but persevered and eventually established the company as a leading firm selling his designs internationally to

"I DON'T WANT MY PAINTINGS TO DISAPPEAR INTO THE WALLPAPER; I WANT THEM TO COMMAND THE WALL AND MAKE PEOPLE NOTICE THEM"

Algarve Memories

"I'M TRYING TO PAINT FOR TODAY'S CONTEMPORARY ENVIRONMENT. I WANT TO BRING SOMETHING SPECIAL INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES, SEND A TINGLE DOWN THE SPINE"

rug, wallpaper and fabric manufacturers. "I started the company on my own and gradually got a team of six working for me; people who I had discovered on my travels as being original, top-notch designers," he says.

In 2000, Bernard decided to sell the business and concentrate on his first love: painting. Since then he has been producing unique canvasses and selling them through galleries in Macclesfield and London as well as further-flung destinations such as South Africa. "I'm trying to paint for today's contemporary environment," he says. "I want to bring something special into people's lives, send a tingle down the spine. I don't want my paintings to disappear into the wallpaper; I want them to command the wall and make people notice them."

To disappear into the wallpaper is not something Bernard's paintings could easily do. Their bright displays of colour and naïve subject matters ensure they will be noticed wherever they are placed in a room. For Bernard, they are the product of an active imagination. "You don't often see pink grass in a painting, do you? I say why not – let your imagination free."

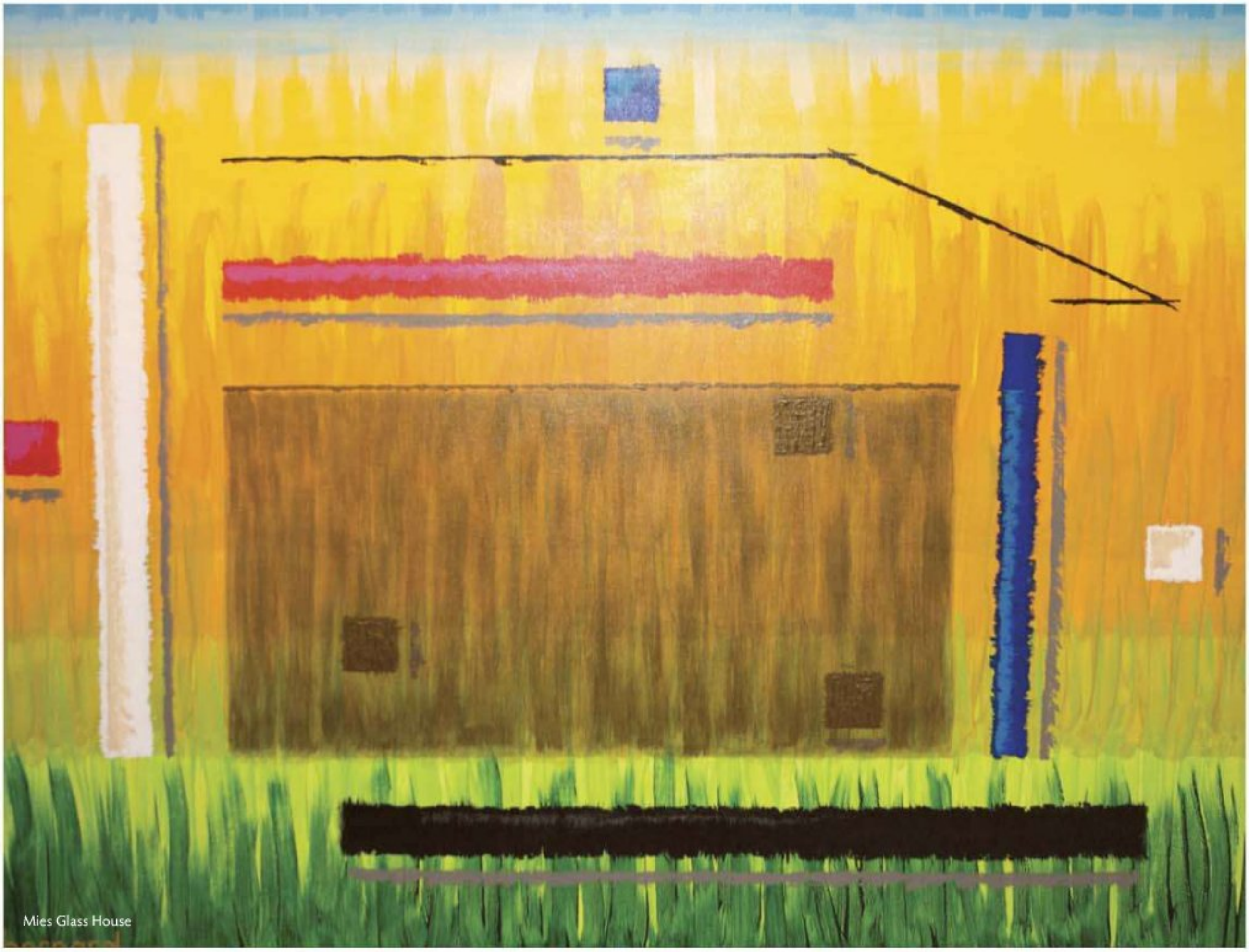
One recent painting was inspired by the Farnsworth House, a building designed by world-famous architect Mies van der Rohe which appears to float. Bernard's interpretation of this is a vivid composition of lines and colours which are at once striking and fascinating.

Another painting, 'Home Comforts', depicts three tall houses and was inspired by the increase of hi-rise apartment blocks in Manchester city centre. "I know some people who live in a modern apartment in Manchester, and everything is convenient for them – the nightlife is on their doorstep, they can walk to work and so on. But they also like the comforts of home, so I'm trying to convey a feeling of warmth and love, even though they're in a busy city."

Bernard has come a long way since his days as an apprentice and is happy to be using the skills he learnt in his youth to such great effect. "I'm trying to do something that's my own, original and different," he says. "It's lovely to see people walk into my little studio and say 'wow'. It fills my eyes." ■

You can see more of Bernard's work at The Paragon Gallery, Macclesfield. Visit: www.artatparagon.com or call 01625 502 111 to find out more.

Alternatively, contact Barnard direct by calling 01625 503 353 or emailing: bernard.odwyer@tiscali.co.uk.



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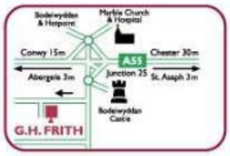

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107 PROPERTY NEWS
110 PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT
116 AREA FOCUS
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For this month's Property News we've searched far and wide to bring you a stunning renovation project in Northumberland, the most eco-friendly apartments in Leeds and canal-side homes in Lancashire.

TOP DESIGN FOR LOW CARBON HOMES

Eco apartments in Leeds have been furnished by acclaimed furniture maker, Naughtone.

The Greenhouse in Leeds is one of the UK's leading low carbon residential developments and features cutting-edge technology aimed at ensuring sustainable living for all its residents. To make sure the 172 apartments are not only green but also exceptionally stylish, developer Citu has teamed up with British furniture designer, Naughtone, which has created furniture packages for all the properties and kitted out the newly unveiled show apartments.

The development was recently named as the country's 'Green Residential Development of the Year' at the annual Estates Gazette Green awards, and every element of design and build has been carefully considered to maximise the sustainable potential of the homes. When Citu was looking for a company to furnish the homes, Naughtone was a clear choice due to their reputation for combining innovative design with sustainable practice.

Adam Vincent-Garland of Naughtone says: "We have always considered our environment and as we continue to expand, so does our impact on the environment. As a forward-thinking furniture company, we are proud to work alongside Citu and their Greenhouse project as we share their passion for 'eco-modern living' – a term coined by Citu to reflect their ethos.

"We believe that no compromise on design ever has to be made in order to minimise environmental impact. All of our products for Greenhouse have been designed and manufactured within 20 miles of the development. Our Yorkshire manufacturing supports the local economy and reduces manufacturing miles to an absolute minimum. Key materials in the furniture collection include solid hardwood frames which provide high quality construction and are supplied from FSC certified forests. The fabric upholstery is 100 per cent wool, supplied within ten minutes of the factory and is fully renewable and compostable. The majority of the furniture pack uses components which meet ISO 14001. This is a British standard for identifying and controlling the environmental impact of a company's activities, products and services."

When the first phase of 100 apartments was released at Greenhouse, all sold within two weeks. The second phase of 32 apartments recently went on sale and the final phase will be released later in the year in advance of their March 2010 completion date. When the scheme is finished, the combined unique green technologies mean that it will set new standards in environmental practise.

To make an appointment to view the Naughtone-designed Greenhouse show apartment call 0113 234 6686, or for more information about the development visit: www.greenhouseleeds.co.uk. To find out more about Naughtone visit: www.naughtone.com.

A RENOVATED GEM

A transformed property in Northumberland offers a coastal location and stunning views of Holy Island.

A four-bedroom home in Beal, Northumberland, has recently been painstakingly renovated by developer Diamond Developments, a company renowned for creating high quality homes in prestigious locations.

Constructed using traditional Northumberland stone, Mount Hooley Farmhouse is situated in an elevated position close to Holy Island and the Heritage coast, which is a short drive away. A high level of attention to detail ensures the home is truly exceptional, with high quality fixtures and fittings throughout. The kitchen features integrated Neff appliances and a bespoke stone-built, double sided fireplace complemented by solid wood units and granite worktops. The home also features a hand-crafted wooden staircase and solid oak flooring in the entrance hall and living room. Other details include solid timber entrance doors and windows, deep-corniced ceilings, Farrow and Ball paint finishes and professionally landscaped gardens. Two of the home's bedrooms have designer en-suite bathrooms, and a ground-floor study could alternatively be used as a fifth bedroom.

Northumberland's coastline is home to miles of golden sandy beaches and offers unrivalled views of the beautiful county. The historic Holy Island can be reached via a causeway from the mainland at low tide and is a honey-pot site for tourists who travel from far and wide to visit the Priory of Lindisfarne which was founded by St Aidan in 635AD. Mount Hooley Farmhouse is situated in the heart of rural Northumberland, seven miles from the town of Belford. The nearest city is Newcastle Upon Tyne, which is 55 miles away, and the delights of Edinburgh are 66 miles away.

The house is priced at £525,000. For further information contact selling agents George F White on 01665 603 231 or visit: www.georgefwhite.co.uk.

AFFORDABLE CANAL-SIDE HOMES

Apartments in Lancashire are available as part of a shared equity scheme, to help first-time buyers get a foot on the property ladder.

North West homebuilder Arley Homes is offering first-time buyers a helping hand onto the property ladder by launching its first shared equity mortgage agreements.

The developer is responding to demand from potential purchasers who want to buy but have been unable to save enough deposit to get a mortgage. Following the success of other assistance schemes, such as part exchange and five per cent deposit paid, Arley believes the incentive will help local young people get their foot in the door.

John Cosgrave, managing director of Arley Homes, says the offer is aimed at people thwarted by the actions of the banks. "The attitude of the banks has been to reign in their lending, thereby cutting off most people's access to funds," he says. "So it comes as no surprise that young people, or those wanting to buy on their own, are struggling to secure a mortgage. It is a travesty they should be prevented from following their dream of owning their own home because of what is happening on the world stage. Arley has long worked with buyers to help them make the move, be it through part exchange, assisted sale or other incentives. Now we are making shared equity an option for those who want to buy one of these apartments but cannot do so without some help."

The deal enables purchasers to buy 75 per cent of a property while Arley retains 25 per cent, which can be paid off upon sale of the property or sooner should the purchaser wish. Arley is offering the deal on the remaining three apartments at their St George's Park development in Mossley, Lancashire.

These elegant two-bedroom properties have an open-plan dining area which is flooded with light throughout the day, and offer stunning views of the Pennine moorland and the pretty town of Mossley.

The homes are part of a mixed development which also includes three-, four- and five- bedroom family homes overlooking the Huddersfield Narrow Canal and River Tame. The semi-rural setting in the heart of the Tame valley offers idyllic countryside living, yet the hubs of Ashton-Under-Lyne and Manchester are within an easy drive.

Apartments at St George's Park start from £129,950, or £97,463 under the shared equity scheme. For further information or to arrange a viewing call 01457 834 000.

SALFORD'S SPECTRUM

A new development in Salford offers quality apartments close to Manchester city centre.

Spectrum is the first major development in the Greengate regeneration area of Salford, and signifies the beginning of a transformation of the area's landscape and its emergence as a diverse quarter of Manchester.

Developer Dandara has created modern homes ideal for those looking to live on the edge Manchester city centre. Comprising a mix of studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, Spectrum offers home hunters quality properties which have been meticulously designed. The homes feature floor-to-ceiling windows in the living areas, integrated storage space and built-in heated mirrors in the bathrooms. Full-length balconies provide most apartments with either stunning views over the communal landscaped gardens, the bright lights of the city, or the Pennines and beyond.

The development is a few minutes walk from the bars and restaurants of Deansgate and less than half a kilometre from Harvey Nichols and Selfridges. This central location allows easy access to major road networks and public transport links include Victoria station and the metro.

The regeneration scheme at Greengate will see 13 hectares of vacant and underused land transformed into a 'distinctive and diverse mixed-use urban quarter,' according to Salford City Council.

Prices at Spectrum start from £124,950. To find out more about Spectrum, call Dandara's sales team on 0161 829 3040 or visit: www.spectrum-manchester.com.

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ECO-CHIC LIVING

The latest development from award-winning Charter Homes offers sustainable homes in a semi-rural location, ideal for families and young couples. *CFL* paid a visit to find out what makes the homes stand out above the rest...

A new collection of high-class properties in Warrington's Whittle Hall is not only superbly stylish but also comes with some of the best eco credentials in the region. Willowbrook Park comprises 22 homes ranging from two-bedroom apartments to three-, four- and five-bedroom family houses. Located in a prestigious new community with the rural Cheshire landscape on the doorstep, the properties are ideal for a wide range of buyers from those who are starting out on the property ladder to second- and third-time buyers.

"BUYERS OF OUR NEW HOMES IN WHITTLE HALL ARE NOT ONLY MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO REDUCING HARMFUL CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO SAVING THEMSELVES SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF MONEY"

The company behind the homes is developer Charter Homes, which has received Daily Mail UK Property Awards for their developments (including Willowbrook Park) three years in a row. Since the company was founded 12 years ago, it has established an excellent reputation for building homes of superior quality.

The homes at Willowbrook Park certainly live up to this reputation and are situated near all the amenities necessary for a family including primary and secondary schools, a leisure centre and a medical centre – all of which are within a short walking distance. The bigger city centres of Liverpool and Manchester are also close and easily accessible via the nearby M62 and A57.

One of the most important features of these properties is their eco-friendliness. They all comply with BREEAM eco standards and have enhanced levels of security, insulation, acoustics, »»»

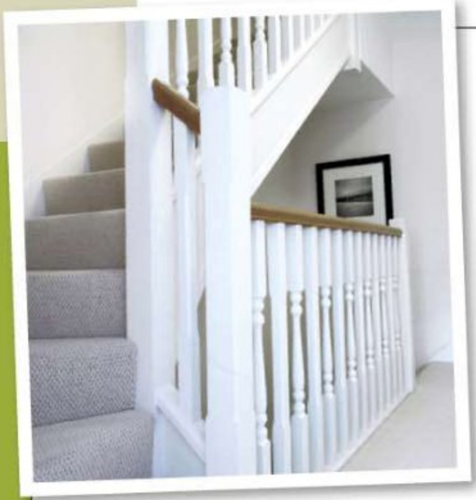
boiler efficiency, water saving and recycling methods, uPVC windows and external doors. All these factors go towards saving the homebuyer money, which Charter Homes estimates as £100 per year on hot water and £373 per year on lighting and heating.

"Eco-friendly homes are seen to be the 'must-have' for a new generation of informed purchasers," says Steve Ratcliffe, managing director of Charter Homes. "Buyers of our new homes in Whittle Hall are not only making a contribution to reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions, but they are also saving themselves significant amounts of money. When you combine the running cost of our new eco-homes with the massive price reductions we have just announced – as high as £50,000 from our price list – then it's a fantastic opportunity for people in a position to buy. We are also offering part-exchange options on selected plots to help buyers to quickly move to a new home with the minimum of stress and without the worry of trying to sell their current property."

The development's showhome was decorated by renowned interior designer Toni Bond using elegant textures and soft colour schemes which enhance the property's practical layout. A spacious entrance hall leads to the living room, with glazed double doors to the dining area allowing homeowners the option to have an open-plan ground floor. A square archway links the dining room with a stylish kitchen, from Panorama, which includes contemporary integrated appliances from Neff, a feature which is true in all 22 properties on the development. French doors then lead from the living room out to the modestly-sized back garden.

The first floor comprises a study area (which could also be used as a bedroom), a family bathroom, luxury double bedroom with en-suite and guest room. All »»

"WE ARE ALSO OFFERING PART-EXCHANGE OPTIONS ON SELECTED PLOTS TO HELP BUYERS TO QUICKLY MOVE TO A NEW HOME WITH THE MINIMUM OF STRESS AND WITHOUT THE WORRY OF TRYING TO SELL THEIR CURRENT PROPERTY"



rooms have large windows to allow an abundance of natural light throughout the house.

The pinnacle of the showhome is the fabulous master bedroom suite which takes up the entire second floor. This airy room features a luxury en-suite bathroom and large parallel windows on each side with a great deal of extra floor space. The master room is an ideal getaway for parents in need of a tranquil setting in which to escape and unwind. Priced at £239,950, the showhome is a large and spacious property well-suited to family life but also ideal for older couples looking to move to a peaceful community.

The high quality fixtures and fittings throughout the development is testimony to Charter Homes's reputation for excellence. Features such as solid oak doors, designer-style bathrooms and stylish modern kitchens are what makes the properties stand out above the rest.

The homes at Willowbrook Park are not only situated in a safe environment close to schools and shops, but also have an abundance of special features concealed around the picturesque grounds. These include ponds to attract wildlife and a nearby park which is perfect for family walks and activities. Charter Homes have even built small jetties over some of the ponds, so that young and old alike can enjoy feeding the local ducks.

The final phase of Willowbrook Park is now underway and the new community is already thriving as a much sought-after location in Warrington. The homes are priced from £169,950 for a two-bedroom apartment to £275,000 for a five-bedroom house.

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Horsepool Farm is a stunning country house in the picturesque rural setting of Gibsmere offering an eco-friendly property on a grand scale. This exceptional five-bedroom residence has been comprehensively and painstakingly redesigned transforming it from a near derelict farm into a cutting-edge residence with extensive, flexible accommodation, and a high level of attention to detail throughout.

The home's eco-friendly design boasts a hi-tech heat source pump, insulation that is 20 per cent above current UK regulations and its own waste water treatment plant. Designed to embrace its natural surroundings, the use of light inside this house is also designed to create a truly special ambience.

The ground floor accommodation, set around a Mediterranean courtyard, comprises an entrance hall, open-plan kitchen family room, open-plan living room, garden room, dining room, laundry room, cloakroom and master bedroom suite, a large office/studio wing, plus leisure wing with indoor swimming pool and gym area. On the first floor there are four further bedrooms, three bathrooms, while outside there is a garage complex with gardens and grounds over approximately 20 acres.

Horsepool Farm is situated on the outskirts of the hamlet of Gibsmere in the Trent Valley and is approximately one mile from the village of Bleasby, between the Minster town of Southwell and the city of Nottingham. The village offers all local amenities such as a Post Office, general store, well-respected junior school, public house and church.

Horsepool Farm is priced £2m. Visit www.chestertonhumberts.com or call 0115 950 5444 to find out more.

MANSFIELD FAMILY HOMES

Sandhurst Gardens expands due to previous success.

The second phase of the popular Sandhurst Gardens development is due to be launched by Miller Homes, East Midlands thanks to the success of its first development in 2006.

This attractively landscaped development complete with spacious, private layout, contrasts with the lively nearby amenities to present modern urban housing at its best. The 16 properties will feature styles to suit all buyers from the spacious four-bedroom detached Stevenson and Churchill to a selection of townhouses.

The first phase of this development proved to be extremely popular with young families and working couples looking to live close to a bustling town centre while also being near a commuter route to Nottingham and further afield. "Now is the right time for us to develop even more opportunities for people to make their home at Sandhurst Gardens", says Joy Goodman, sales director at Miller Homes.

The first properties are now available, and the development will be completed by March 2010. **Prices starting from £118,950. Visit www.millerhomes.co.uk or cll 0800 840 8650**

RURAL DELIGHTS

Climb the property ladder in Alexandra Park, Bestwood Village.

36 new homes are currently being developed by David Wilson in a peaceful village not far from Nottingham city centre. Set on the edge of Bestwood Country Park, the charming collection of four- and five-bedroom detached properties are finished to a high standard and ideal for families or those looking to climb the property ladder.

Thoughtfully designed to complement its surroundings, the development, once fully completed, will be the ideal place to enjoy a relaxed family lifestyle. The five-bedroom Moorcroft is one of the most sought after designs on offer, thanks to its well-planned layout and spacious accommodation. "The Moorcroft is an outstanding style suited to families looking for an extra special place to call home. There are currently three on offer at Alexandra Park and with prices from £349,995 they offer good value for money on a home of this standard" says Philip Lacey, Sales Director at David Wilson.

Buyers at Alexandra Park can also take advantage of the benefits of buying off plan which includes choosing your preferred interior specification, having the choice of flooring and tiles plus the pick of the best plots.

Prices start from £212,995. To find out more visit www.dwh.co.uk or call 01159 764 501

GRADE II-LISTED HOMES

A Grade II-listed building south of Nottingham has been restored to its former glory.

Leading residential developer Gladedale has now completed its careful renovation of the Grade II listed Widmerpool Hall. This magnificent building, dating back to 1871, is set within 20 acres of open space just south of Nottingham. Homebuyers now have the opportunity to purchase a luxury new home from a collection of nine apartments, four detached and 11 mews homes – all rich in character and style.

"Widmerpool Hall is truly remarkable, a secluded oasis with an illustrious history that any purchaser would be proud to be part of," says Gina Holmes of Gladedale. "Marrying old with new, the development will appeal to those looking for a new home with character as well as modern technology and specification."

On offer is a combination of two- and three-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom duplexes. High ceilings and period detail in the living rooms and bedrooms are complemented by state-of-the-art entertainment systems, along with modern kitchens and boutique-style bathrooms.

Widmerpool Hall is an ideal choice for those who prefer to combine a country lifestyle with easy access to nearby towns and cities. The village is approximately ten miles south of Nottingham and just a few miles from the county borders of neighbouring Leicestershire and Derbyshire.

Prices range from £264,950 to £399,950. Visit: www.widmerpoolhall.co.uk or call 01159 377 086 for more information.

St Fagans Natural History Museum.

Photography Eleri Griffiths

AN ARCHITECT'S VIEW: PAST TIMES

Kevin Drayton takes a rest from touring the North's many architectural masterpieces to reflect on the sometimes questionable role of the conservation officer in preserving our rich heritage.

Some people think that, if you are interested in buildings, you are by definition a little bit weird. Most normal people who are interested in buildings (and here I include you dear reader) are primarily concerned that they look good, function well and don't cost a fortune to run. Pretty much the same attitude you may take to say motor cars.

Many people with an interest in buildings are also concerned with heritage and value the great number of fine historical buildings we have. But very few buildings, old or new, can afford not to work for a living. In other words, a building that no longer has a functional use has to be pretty special to persuade us that it should be saved. Hence we get programmes such as the BBC series fronted by Griff Rhys Jones where you are invited to choose between a number of worthy candidates to see which one will be spared the wrecking ball.

To digress for a moment, if you ever visit South Wales, there is a fascinating collection of preserved buildings at the St Fagans Natural History Museum just outside Cardiff. Essentially they've been picked up from various parts of Wales and brought together in a sort of architectural equivalent of a donkey sanctuary. I also had the pleasure and privilege of visiting the Norwegian equivalent on the outskirts of Oslo some years ago. Beats even the best stage set reconstruction in a museum by a mile.

Most of us accept that you don't mess about with a masterpiece. It's unlikely anyone could seriously improve the Mona Lisa for example by adding a few new trees in the background. The same is true with buildings: nobody in their right mind thinks uPVC windows would do much to enhance St Paul's Cathedral. But when it comes to less exalted structures things aren't quite so straightforward.

Let me now tell you a story. Any resemblance to a project from within my own office would naturally be purely coincidental. Let's say you've recently moved into an old house.

Grade II* listed Victorian baths, Manchester was the first recipient of BBB2's *'Restoration'* prize.

Restoration work at Victorian baths, Manchester.

St Fagans Natural History Museum.

"Most of us accept that you don't mess about with a masterpiece"

Nice but essentially unremarkable. In fact part of the reason it is so nice is because large parts of the village or area of town where you live is composed of similar old houses. Of course each one is slightly different and each has its own character. Sadly this one has been a bit neglected, a bit unloved and is consequently somewhat run down, but that helped keep the price down a bit, so who cares? You have plans for this place!

In fact somebody 'improved' it a few years back and amongst other 'improvements' they knocked out some of the mullioned windows (you know, the vertical divisions between the narrow openings) to make bigger 'picture' windows. The result is a bit of a mish-mash from the outside, but that's easily rectified. It's not a huge job to replace the mullions and you're passionate about your home. It deserves to have its dignity restored and be brought back into keeping with the neighbours. Most of all it will give you your dream home.

Knowing the importance of doing these things properly, you engage an architect. The architect advises you that the cottage is listed (that's to say it is included on a list of buildings of historical or architectural importance) and that you will need the blessing of the local authority conservation officer, as well as the development control officer, for the work you want to do to the building.

Now we come to the slightly tricky bit. The conservation officer charged with scrutinising your application is young enough, lucky thing, still to be charged with the zeal of the lectures received whilst at university. The officer was mesmerised by the lecturer, himself a devotee of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). The essential message of SPAB, formed in the late 19th century, is that restoration of old buildings is anathema. Conservation is fine, but once something is gone, it's gone.

Here is a short extract from SPAB's manifesto, issued in 1877: *"a church of the eleventh century might be added to or altered in the twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, or even the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries; but every change, whatever history it destroyed, left history in the gap, and was alive with the spirit of the deeds done midst its fashioning. The result of all this was often a building in which the many changes, though harsh and visible enough, were, by their very contrast, interesting and instructive and could by no possibility mislead. But those who make the changes wrought in our day under the name of Restoration, while professing to bring back a building to the best time of its history, have no guide but each his own individual whim to point out to them what is admirable and what contemptible; while the very nature of their task compels them to destroy something and to supply the gap by imagining what the earlier builders should or might have done. Moreover, in the course of this double process of destruction and addition, the whole surface of the building is necessarily tampered with; so that the appearance of antiquity is taken away from such old parts of the fabric as are left, and there is no laying to rest in the spectator the suspicion of what may have been lost; and in short, a feeble and lifeless forgery is the final result of all the wasted labour."*

The long and the short of it is that the application to replace the mullions in the windows is rejected and the homeowner is sentenced to life with an ugly, disfigured building that will continue to blight the streetscape for years to come. The conservation officer's view is that the removal of the mullions is a fact of history, part of the story of the building and that to attempt to conceal that fact is tantamount to falsification of the most heinous kind. There are no rubbers on the end of SPAB members' pencils.

Is there a moral to this story? If there is, over thirty years of practice have failed to reveal it me yet.

Kevin is partner at One17 Design. Visit: www.one17design.com to find out more about his work.

St Fagans Natural History Museum is open 10am – 5pm daily and Bank Holiday Mondays. Entrance is free. To find out more visit: www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans or tel. 029 2057 3500.

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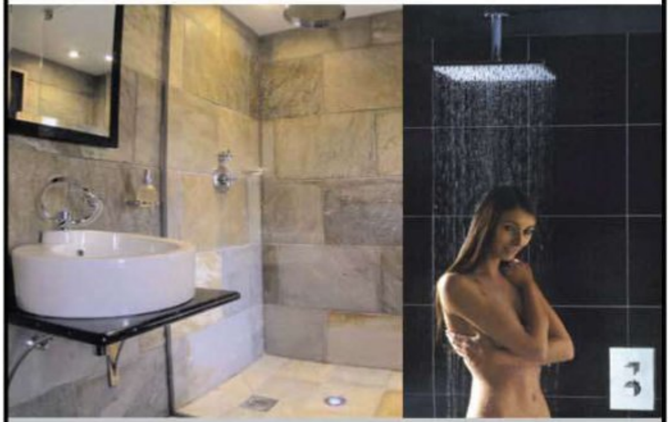

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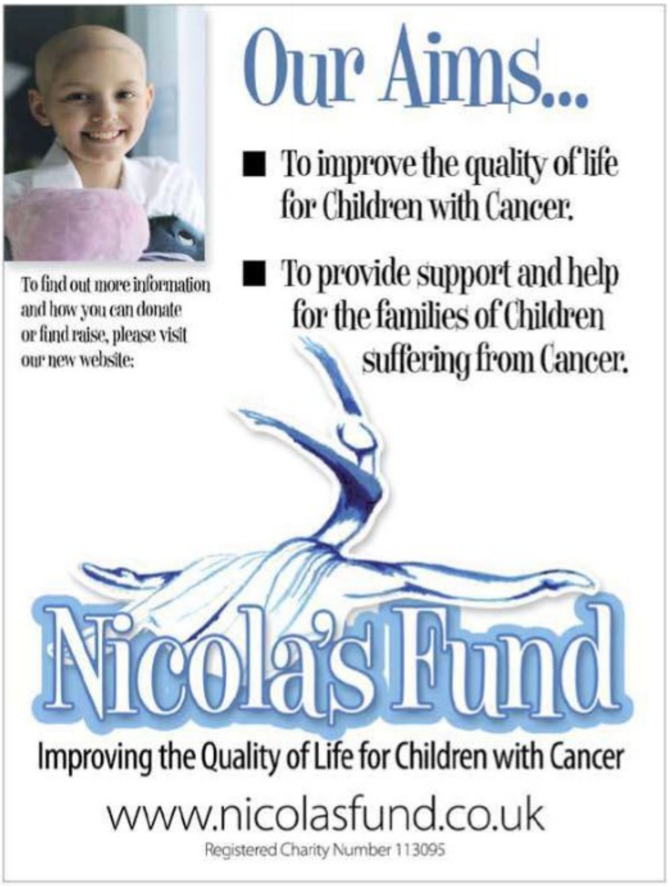
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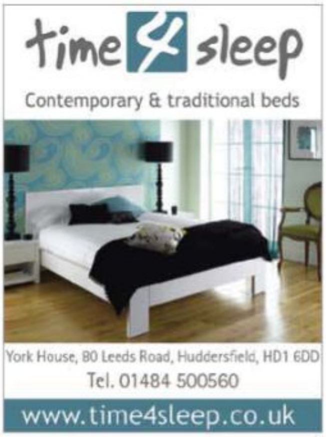
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Mooch 01280 814 943 www.mooch.co.uk
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N-P

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Nono 01282 471 622 www.nono.co.uk
Not On The High Street 0845 259 1359 www.notonthehighstreet.com
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Original Style 01392 473 000 www.originalstyle.com
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Sweetpea & Willow 0845 257 2627 www.sweetpeaandwillow.com

T

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The Atlantic Blanket Company 0845 6585 194 www.atlanticblankets.com
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The Dolls House Emporium 0845 434 7447 www.dollshouse.co.uk
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Topps Tiles 0800 023 4703 www.toppstiles.co.uk
Twyford Bathrooms www.twyfordbathrooms.com

U-Z

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1

2

3

Compiled by **Katie Cotgrave**

WINTER CHECKS

This autumn/winter its all about introducing texture and colour through classic winter checks. Create this classic warming tone by adding a simple accessory like a cashmere throw or make an impact with a cosy oversized armchair. It's easy to achieve this striking statement in your home.

For stockist details see page 126

1 'Trench' cushion, £115, Roche Bobois. **2** Mulberry doorstop, £57, Amara. **3** Autumn leaf blanket, £175, The Atlantic Blanket Company. **4** 'Fermanagh Plaid' carpet and 'Cavan Plaid' carpet, £56.79 per sq m, Brintons. **5** 'Melrose' armchair, £699, John Lewis. **6** Hot water bottle cover, £22, Toast. **7** Tartan footstool, £245, Pins and Ribbons. **WALLPAPER** 'Audrey' from the 'Couture' collection by Marcel Wanders, £35 per roll, Graham & Brown.

4

5

6

7

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